

異世界

子育てしながら冒険者します

ゆるり紀行

2



Minazuki Shizuru

水無月静琉



アルファポリス

ISEKAI YURURI KIKOU

~Raising Children While Being an Adventurer~

- Part 2 -

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[Translated by: Shinsori Translations]

CHAPTER 31

FIRST SHOPPING

A day after returning from the expedition, we were leisurely spending time in the inn's room.

Therefore, I decided to confirm my status which I did not see for a while.

Status

【Name】 Takumi Kayano

【Race】 Human? [Wind God's retainer (Temporary)]

【Occupation】 Magician

【Age】 20

【Level】 25

【Skills】

Light Magic 66 | Dark Magic 62

Wind Magic 169 | Water Magic 50

Space Magic 109 | Life Magic 124

Swordsmanship 54 | Throwing 49

Appraisal 209 | Dismantling 119

Familiars 22 | Training 12

Cooking 113 | Sewing 23

Washing 12 | Cleaning 31

Crafting 39 | Gathering 42

Arithmetics 108 | Reading 125

Concealment 37 | Detection 35

Oracle 12

Abnormal Status Resistance 300 | Mental Status Resistance 300

Physical Attack Resistance 300 | Magic Attack Resistance 300

【Titles】

Transmigrated From a Different World

Blessed by the God of Creation, Malianor

Friend of Wind God Sylphreel

Savior
Conqueror of Low-Grade Dungeon
Monster Contractor
【Contracted Beasts】
Fenrir (Joule)
Thunderhawk (Bolt)
Celestial Tiger (Feat)

My level increased considerably, and my skill proficiencies rose too.

A new entry, 【Contracted Beasts】 appeared.

And, strangely, I have obtained 【Water Magic】 .

Because its proficiency is not in the single digits, I think it means that I didn't learn it naturally, but it's something that I was given. It's not something the Wind God Syl could give me directly, but I think he somehow has his hands in it.

Speaking of Water Magic, it's something Allen and Elena have, but never learned how to use it.

But, unlike the advanced knowledge about Wind Magic that was implemented into me, I have little to no knowledge about Water Magic...

In the first place, because all the knowledge about the use of magic was implemented, I have no idea how to teach them.

Would they sell magic books in the bookstores? Let's look for a bookstore later.

“O~ne, two~, three~, fo~ur, five~ ten!” “

I put the teaching of magic aside for now and taught Allen and Elena numbers.

“Yes, well done. This is a copper coin. What goes after 10 copper coins?”

“This!” “

“Correct~”

“ “Ehehe~” “

In the beginning, I thought it would be nice if I could teach them to count up to 100, but the two learned it just like that.

Therefore, I greedily taught them to count up to 10,000♪

And then, I lined up coins by ten side by side, 10 Copper coins, 10 Large Copper coins... first of all, I taught them about five kind of coins.

“Then, next is 54G”

“ “N, this..... here!” “

“Correct~”

“ “Yatta~” “

When I ask for a specific amount, Allen and Elena correctly count and present me with 5 Large Copper coins and 4 Copper coins.

They were nervously presenting the coins at first, but they got the gist of it after doing it for several times, and now they have confident expressions.

When I pat their heads while saying [You did well], the two look very happy.

Seriously adorable!!

“Then, if I shopped for 26G with this?”

“ “N, umm... this!” “

I only taught them about five kinds of coins, but they accurately grasped their value.

Therefore, this time, I handed them a Silver coin and asked them to return me the correct amount. The two correctly returned me 7 Large Copper coins and 4 Copper coins.

Not only addition, but they are also able to subtract. Aren't they amazing?

If they were able to come this far, putting it into practice follows, right?



“Allen, Elena. Is there something you want to buy?”

We went to the shopping street at once.

The store we went to first deals in dried food. They are selling the dried fruits Allen and Elena often eat for snacks.

The shop assistant is a middle-aged woman, and because this woman always looks at Allen and Elena with gentle gaze when we are here, I have decided on this shop to be Allen’s and Elena’s first shopping place.

“Welcome. Have you found what you want?”

Sure enough, the woman matched the children’s eyes and picked up the jar with products, so it’s easier to see.

“Can you show what you want and say [Please], Allen?”

“Un! This! Please!”

Allen says while pointing at an apricot-like dried fruit in the jar.

“Yes. Shuri fruit, is it? How many would you like?”

“Umm..... five!”

After Allen was asked about the number of pieces he wanted, he glanced at me first, so I showed him “5” with my palm. Then, Allen correctly answered the woman with the right number.

“5 pieces, is it? That will cost you 75G”

“Urmm... here!”

“Ara?... Maa! It’s precise! How admirable~”

The woman got surprised the moment Allen took out the money. She then looked at me, and I nodded at her with the meaning of request. My meaning seemed to have conveyed properly, as she faced Allen right away.

Allen took out coins from his pouch and handed them to the woman. The woman received the money, got surprised that the amount was right and praised Allen.

“Next is Elena, okay?”

“Un! Elena, this! Please!”

“Yes. Riigo fruit. How many would you like?”

“Five!”

Elena who could observe the exchange between the woman and Allen had a smoother time.

“Yes. Then, that makes 60G”

“Ummm... here!”

“Yes. That’s just right. How admirable~”

The woman also praised Elena well.

It really helps she praised them equally.

“ “We did it~?” “

“Un. You did really well~ Admirable, admirable”

Because the two clung to me after storing the dried fruit in their pouches, I patted their heads a lot.

“Thank you very much for going along”

When I thank the woman who helped Allen and Elena with their first shopping, the woman said [Don’t worry about it].

Together with the thanks, I bought some dried fruit, nuts, spices and fine powders in a reasonable amount.

We went to the bookstore next.

Although the objective is to purchase books related to magic, I also need to buy some novels.

I haven't read anything since arriving at Aetherdia. I read dozens of novels a month back on Earth, so I'm already missing it.

The paper is also produced on Aetherdia, so it's quite inexpensive. Because of that, the books are sold at reasonable price.

A paper is a high-class item, and books are luxuries! I'm glad it wasn't that kind of pattern.

Good amount of books is displayed on the bookshelves.

Books about magic, medicinal plants, monster books with pictures and their special traits, poetry and scriptures. Of course, there are also many in the novels genre. Maa~ most of the contents of the stories are about adventures and love, though.

After looking around the shop for a while, I found [Magic Basics] [List of Incantations], these two books.

Not necessary for me, but I thought it would be easier to explain to Allen and Elena, so I brought encyclopedias like [Complete Works of Plants] [Complete Works of Monsters] and returned to the inn.

CHAPTER 32

RANK UP

“Takumi-san!”

We visit the Adventurer’s Guild today. It’s to complete the procedures required for us to receive the Gaya Forest expedition request reward.

Risner-sama said to come to the guild to receive the reward the other day.

When we enter the building, Luna-san jumps out from behind the counter.

“Luna-san? What’s the matter?”

“I was waiting for you!! Now then, let’s go to the Guild Master! Hey, quickly! Allen-kun, Elena-chan too, come quickly”

“ “!! Onii~chan~” “

Guild Master?

While not understanding, Luna-san drags me deeper into the guild, and takes me to the Guild Master’s office. Allen and Elena trot after me while confused.

“Master, Takumi-san has arrived so I brought him”

“Ah, come in”

When Luna-san knocked at the door and stated her business, she immediately received a response from the other side.

When I opened the door, I saw a man with gray hair sitting on the front office desk. The man stands from his chair and shows us inside.

“I work as the Master of Shirin’s Adventurer’s Guild. Johann is my name”

“I’m Takumi Kayano. These children are Allen and Elena. It’s nice to meet you”

This man is the Guild Master. He seems to know about me, but I introduced myself just in case.

The Guild Master urges us to sit on a sofa in the middle of the room. I sit on the sofa as told, Allen and Elena sit on both of my sides.

“...This man? He doesn’t seem like it... However, if Ruven-dono and Rudolph-dono are saying so, it can’t be wrong...”

Wald-sama and Rudolph-san?

While I let Allen and Elena sit down on the sofa, the Guild Master mutters something to himself. I wasn’t able to hear properly, but the two’s names came up, right?

“...Umm?”

“Oh no, I was told leaving your rank as is would be foolish. However, you don’t look that strong to me...”

It appears that the business was about a rank up.

Which reminds me, Wald-sama and Rudolph-san were talking about something like that in the Gaya Forest. The talk went quite quickly...

And then, the Guild Master looks directly at me and states bluntly.

“Don’t think badly of me. I have initially raised to the post of Guild Master by doing secretary work, I don’t know much about fighting. But, seeing adventurers for so long I have developed an eye for strong individuals, but... unlike the other adventurers I have seen before... I don’t understand well...”

To adventurers, being told [You don’t look that strong] is something that would make them angry.

Actually, since my neurons were destroyed once before...

Therefore, the Guild Master’s standard for judging adventurers can’t be applied to me. Also, the aura of the strong? Is it because I don’t have something like that?

At any rate, I didn't go through the "getting stronger little by little" process, so it's impossible to have that.

"...Well, your real ability was without a doubt endorsed by those two. I intend to make you an A-Rank"

"Eeh? A-Rank!?"

I thought it would be C-Rank, but A-Rank?

To be honest, I got so surprised a strange voice left my mouth.

"What about examination and such?"

"There's no problem since Ruven-dono and Rudolph-dono confirmed your ability. You have defeated Bloody Wolves and Evil Viper, right?"

You have completely given up your judgment of me not looking that strong, didn't you... is it okay to rank up that easily?

Whether it is a nobility and captain of the Knight Wald-sama or Rudolph-san who is a high-rank adventurer who guaranteed my ability, it is, after all, information from someone else. But, if the Guild Master accepted it so quickly, he must trust those two quite a lot.

"So, an A-Rank?"

"The Guild Master's authority can grant rank only up to A-Rank. An approval of several Guild Masters is needed for S-Rank, so that's indeed impossible for me"

It's the opposite, opposite! I was uneasy because my rank raised too much!

Nobody can complain about not becoming an S-Rank!

"According from what I heard, those children are also strong. What do you want to do?"

"...What to do?"

"I can also give rank to these children, but if children like that receive a high rank it

will most likely have the opposite effect. But, if they at E-Rank you won't be able to accept high-rank requests because your party will stay at low level"

Ah, indeed.

Because the members' average rank determines the party rank, the party rank at this rate would be "D" I think?

It's not problem for me, but if the Guild needed me to take a request I would be able to...

He asked for our convenience rather than going straight for the profit first.

Chirari, when I glance at Allen and Elena, they obediently sit while smiling at me. They are not alerted at all.

It's no doubt that this Guild Master is a good person.

In that case, let's compromise.

"I'm okay without raising the rank of the two, but... if it's a problem for the guild how about increasing their rank to D?"

"Fumu~ If that's the case... the party rank would be C? That is reasonable..."

If Allen and Elena become D-Rank, the party rank will become C. It's possible to receive requests that are one rank higher, in other words, B-Rank requests. A-Rank requests are very rare, so we will be able to receive almost every requests.

"Umu. Well then, let's finish the procedure"



We left the office of the Guild Master, went to the counter to update the Guild Card, and received the reward which was our original purpose of coming here.

When everything was over, Luna-san looked at me with sparkling eyes as if she was expecting something.

"Now then, Takumi-san!"

"Umm... what is it?"

Did Luna-san and I make some kind of a promise?

“Materials, the materials~! Please sell me the materials from Gaya Forest~ I have received info from Rudolph-san that Takumi-san has a lot in his possession!”

“Ah, so it’s about that”

“That’s right! I have waited for Takumi-san’s arrival!”

It seems that she marked the Gaya Forest materials. Indeed, Luna-san said something like [Please get a lot].

I have several Red Wolves and Bloody Wolves so it may not be a bad idea to sell them. And then some medicinal plants? Allen and Elena worked hard and got a lot, so it may be alright to sell some?

“Should I take them out here?”

“Ah! That’s right, sorry. But, it’s okay! I have secured the biggest warehouse that will even fit the Evil Viper! I will lead you there right away~”

Luna-san knew I have Evil Viper in my possession. Did you heard that from Rudolph-san too...

Ah, that’s right, I’m in charge of looking after the Evil Viper, but the Knights and the other three adventurer parties gave up their rights. Indeed, I refrained from receiving a whole corpse of an A-Rank monster, but... I was ignored.

Therefore, the whole Evil Viper eventually became ours.

“Over here”

We were taken to the Guild’s largest warehouse. Certainly, if it’s this place, it will fit if straight, but it will be pretty close if the body bends.

Luna-san contacted the dismantling staff beforehand. They are full of motivation.

But, there’s something I have to check first.

“I’d like the Evil Viper’s skin for our protective skin, but...”

Because I felt like it’s not needed, we didn’t use protective gear until now.

A normal shirt and pants with some magic tool accessories are what I usually use.

Allen and Elena are the same.

However, after Allen and Elena received an attack, I started thinking it may not be that bad to use it.

Heavy armor is not possible, but leather breastplate, gauntlets and such would be good. Also, strong boots that suit Allen’s and Elena’s fighting style.

BI think that the Evil Viper’s skin is ideal for that.

“Ngu! Not all of it, right!? You will sell us a bit, right!?”

When I tell that I’m unwilling to sell the Evil Viper skin, Luna-san goes into a panic.

“Is there something?”

“To tell the truth... the Merchant Guild who caught the rumors are persistently contacting us”

Ah, so it’s something like that. They probably heard from the Knights or the adventurers that were with us. They probably contacted the Adventurer’s Guild immediately after that.

It seems they are eager for profit.

“It’s large, after all. Of course, I won’t be needing everything, I will properly sell”

“Really! Thank you very much!”

Rudolph-san said that Evil Viper’s blood is precious. I retrieve the corpse from the [Infinite Storage].

“Uwa~” “... So big” “Amazing!”

Seeing the Evil Viper’s body, the entranced staff in the warehouse leak voices of amazement.

“Hey! Everyone, stop staring blanky and begin to work!”

The staff came to their senses after hearing Luna-san and start working on the Evil Viper.

Although Evil Viper’s skin is very hard when it’s alive, it’s quite easier to handle once it died. That being said, it would still be impossible without special Mithril knives and good strength.

“Because the dismantling takes time, should we talk about the sale in the meantime? The dismantled materials will be held in the Guild’s warehouse, will you come for it tomorrow?” “I understand. Also, I would like to sell this too, please”

Red Wolf, Bloody Wolf, Giant Boar, Great Monkey. Also medicinal plants. It was not everything I have, but I take out what I thought would be good to sell from the [Infinite Storage].

They are not all from the Gaya Forest, but they came from Aetherdia, so there shouldn’t be a problem?

“Kya————!!!”

Luna-san who saw the goods I took out screams in joy.

CHAPTER 33

CRAFTSMAN SPIRIT

“I’m sorry, I lost it a bit... Ah, right, right. Takumi-san, the Head of the Woodworking Department of the Craftsman Guild said that he wanted to see you”

Luna-san whose sanity has returned suddenly recalls something.

The Craftsmen Guild is as the name suggest a guild where craftsmen register, in other words, a commercial and industrial organization.

Woodworking Department—Craftsmen specializing in wood processing such as carpenters and furniture craftsmen.

Blacksmithing Department—Craftsmen specializing in a metal processing of weapons, armors, cooking utensils and such.

Cooking Department—Craftstmen specializing in food such as bakers and chefs.

Medical Department—Craftsmen specializing in medical treatment such as therapists and pharmacists.

— And so on. There are much more various departments.

It’s a place to regulate and share information, to arrange work and disciples, and to create connections between craftsmen.

“Craftsmen Guild wants to see me?”

“Yes. Takumi-san brought large trees from the Gaya Forest, right? I think they probably want to buy those from you...”

“.....”

Luna-san... You know even about the trees that I have knocked down and collected? Moreover, it’s not only known to the Adventurer’s Guild, but even the Craftsmen Guild knows of it?

Evil Viper, trees... just how much information do you have... Although it’s not

regulated, don't you know way too much? It has only been a day since then you know? I left the adventurer guild and decided to head towards the craftsman guild while dropping my shoulders at the information leak.

"I would like to meet the Head of the Woodworking Department, but"

"Do you have an appointment?"

When I inform the receptionist Oneesan of the Craftsmen Guild, she looks at me with a dubious expression.

If an unfamiliar person suddenly visits and wants to talk with the Department Head without an appointment, you might be suspicious, but this is too much in the face.

"No, I have received a message that the Department Head would like to see me"

"May I inquire about your name, please?"

"Ah, excuse me. It's Takumi Kayano"

"I'm sorry. I have heard the story. I will call the Department Head. Can you wait a moment?"

"Yes, I understand"

When I tell her my name, the receptionist's mood completely changed and she apologized.

It seems she was informed beforehand about my visit.

"Is that Takumi Kayano-dono!"

As soon as the receptionist left her seat, a large man appeared.

Zeezee, he gasps for breath, just how much were you hurrying!?

"Yes, that's right. eh... um, are you the Head of the Woodworking Department?"

"Ah! Excuse me. I'm the Head of the Woodworking Department Galion. It's too quick,

but!! Gaya Forest's large tree! You have it, right!?"

"...Yes"

It is about selling the large tree from the Gaya Forest after all. He's leaning forward, almost falling down. It was to the extent I unconsciously took a step back.

Trees from Gaya Forest seem to be excellent materials. Besides being able to make furniture without seams because it's so big, it contains magical power so it's possible to grant it fireproof magic.

Goods made from these trees are apparently all sold at high price.

But, as we know, Gaya Forest is a dangerous forest. Even when cutting down the trees around the forest, you don't know when a demon appears, so you must not be negligent and hire an escort. Besides, cutting down the trees is a challenge itself. Besides, carrying it back is an equal difficulty.

Therefore, it's not something craftsmen secure on their own, but it's something that the Craftsmen Guild desperately needs.

Yep, that's what the department Head-san told me in excitement.

I don't care about it anymore. I won't understand anymore technical talk!

Of course, I have no use of it, so I agreed to sell. After I had placed the trees in the storehouse, the department Head-san was going to begin to talk again, so I quickly received my money excused myself.

The enthusiasm was conveyed, but I am somewhat tired...



"Hello"

After leaving the Craftsmen Guild, I visited the [Gold Wheat's Shop].

Unexpectedly, long time no see? The last time I came was before conquering the dungeon.

“Ou, Takumi...”

“Are, you look somehow down? There are also no products even though it’s just past afternoon?”

Road-san’s complexion was bad at first glance. In addition, there were no products lined on the shelves. There should be many products lined up with customers lining up until the evening, but...

What happened?

“Road-san?”

“No... you see...”

Road-san begins to speak in a small voice.

His story was like this——

This noble coerced him [Sell the Cream bread] by using his power.

Road-san didn’t defy and made Cream bread with all ingredients he had left.

It seems to have ended at that time.

However, that noble told him to teach him the Cream bread’s recipe next. Naturally, Road-san didn’t respond to that.

A recipe is cook’s treasure. It’s not something that could be given out so easily.

Besides, I was the one who taught him the Cream bread recipe so it’s not something he could teach others on his own.

Is he too loyal or what should I say... Road-san is an extremely diligent craftsman. But, I have good feelings about Road-san because he’s like that.

After declining him, the noble started making an uproar [They stole our secret recipe] this time. Furthermore, he pressured other stores not to sell the wheat flour which is always necessary for a bakery to [Gold Wheat’s Shop].

If there is no flour, he can’t make bread.

—Because of that, he had no choice and suspended the business.

What a dirty thing to do!

“If you told the Cream bread recipe, the opponent would pull back, but telling him obediently would be unpleasant... Road-san. I’d like to investigate for a bit, could you wait for a few days?”

“Of course, I have no objections. It would be annoying just to give up after resisting this much. Rather, sorry for taking your time”

“Please don’t mind it. I’m not unrelated to this matter either”

Speaking of which, it’s my fault for teaching Road-san.

Besides, I don’t like people who use such dirty means. I feel like beating him up.

Un? It’s okay, I won’t beat him up physically. I can do it though if it’s the present me. But, because the opponent is a noble, I would most likely become a criminal?

“Ah, right. I almost forgot. I would like a bit larger amount of bread made, would that be alright? I will be using the ingredients I have at me”

“Ah, I don’t mind. I’m free anyway”

“Then, I would like this please”

I retrieve the necessary ingredients from the [Infinite Storage], hand over the paper with number and types of bread to Road-san and left the store after saying I will come tomorrow again.

Now then, let’s start with collecting information!

CHAPTER 34

ANNOYING PERSON

The name of the noble who is applying pressure on Road-san is a baron from Guardia called Gilbert.

The mastermind unexpectedly became apparent. I went to the store where Road-san usually buys ingredients, and when I asked the shop assistant, he answered me. Plainly.

The person in the shop didn't want to do it, but [I couldn't go against a noble. I'm really sorry to Road-san] he said.

"Oi! Those kids!!"

I was loitering around the shopping street and thinking "What to do?" about Baron Gilbert. All of sudden, a man shouts from behind me.

Allen and Elena got startled and hid behind me.

"Do you need something from the children?"

"Those fellows are my goods!"

"....."

...What is this guy in the middle of the road talking?

When I appraised him, his occupation is Slave Trader. Slaves may be goods for a slave trader, but does he walk down the street and point at people making them his goods? How rude!

From his behavior, he must be the slave trader who was attacked near the Gaya Forest. He's the one who must have ran away while using Allen and Elena as a decoy.

Though I heard they were half destroyed, this fellow was all right. What a lucky guy!

Rather, he still was in this town... no, is it different? Has he been attacked on the way to his base?

Well, where this guy's base is at, is unrelated to me, though.

"These children are my younger siblings. Could you please stop saying such rude things?"

"There's no way I would mistake such distinctive kids! I will have you return them to me"

They are not slaves, they have names which are Allen and Elena, and in the first place, speaking about "returning" them is funny.

Even if what the slave trader says is true, it's also true that he "threw them away" while using as a decoy. He has no right to claim himself as their owner. It's only a false charge.

"Could you stop joking around?"

"Shut up! Hand them over at once!!"

"....."

I want to smash him up immediately.

But, if I do that here, he would definitely make an even bigger fuss of it.

I desperately suppress my impulse because I understand that it's a bad move.

"Oi, what is this fuss!"

The town patrol seems to have noticed the uproar.

The curious spectators have gathered around us.

"Just at the right time. It's a thief! This fellow has stolen my goods! Please arrest him!!"

The guards alternate their gazes between the slave trader and me.

“...Is that the truth?”

“No, I did not do such thing”

Since the patrolling guard asked, I flatly denied it.

But you see~, a person who stole something wouldn't usually obediently confess [I stole it], wouldn't he? Did you make a mistake in the confirmation method?

Well, if I was arrested without being asked first, it would be a poor mistaken arrest.

“Have you heard what goods that person said I stole from him? And by looking at this situation, do you really think it's true?”

“.....What are the stolen goods?”

“These children!!”

“ “.....” “

The curious onlookers look with disgust at the uselessly screaming slave trader. Allen and Elena clung to me, hiding even further.

The patrolling guards look at the frightened children hiding behind me and then look with dubious gazes at the slave trader. From the 3rd person view, it must seem like the slave trader has picked a fight with me. Actually, that's true.

“Where's the proof? Please show the proof that these children are your shop's slaves. I will say it before hand, but these children don't have a slave crest, you know?”

A crest is engraved on the bodies of slaves with Contract Magic which makes the slaves not being able to defy their master. If it's not there, it means that Allen and Elena are not slaves.

Children who escaped on their own would have a crest carved on their bodies.

It costs money to apply Contract Magic. It's this fellow's fault for being a miser.

“The slave trade”, the trade of people is authorized in this country. And there are two kinds of slaves. Crime slaves and Debt slaves.

Crime slaves, as the name suggests are people who committed a crime. They are forcibly sent to mines where they have to do manual labor while strictly monitored.

The other one, Debt slaves are people who couldn't return borrowed money and those who sold themselves. If they can pay off their principal, they will be released.

They are used as a work force, but their human rights are guaranteed. Therefore, there's an obligation to provide meals and minimum necessities of life.

But, owners who treat them like products, not following the responsibility to protect them, and make them do criminal acts are never ceasing. This trader is one of those.

The patrolling guards and the curious onlookers realize that and look at the slave trader with cold eyes.

"If it's the shop assistant of my shop, he can provide the proof!"

"If you tell that to your shop assistant, it will become an order. It won't be a proof"

It's easy making things convenient for yourself.

Rather, this must be a daily routine for this fellow.

"Even if it's truth that these children resemble the children from your shop, it's not restricted only to these children, right? You are a criminal who kidnaps children. Weren't the children slaves in your shop actually kidnapped?"

The patrols and the onlookers hold their breath at my words. I hear [Surely not] from here and there.

With the interaction so far, it has become "It wouldn't be strange if true".

"Let us hear more detailed story back at the station"

"What have you said!?"

The patrol restricts the slave trader and drags him off.

“I would like to hear your side of the story too, but...”

“I don’t want to go to the same place as the trader. The children are frightened”

I didn’t feel the obligation to go to the station with the guards, so I refused. The patrol guard seemed to understand and didn’t force me to go.

But, I told him my name in case something comes up.

The patrol leaves, the onlookers scatter, I hold Allen and Elena in my arms and immediately leave the place.

“ “Onii~chan...” “

“Everything’s all right. I will be with you as long as Allen and Elena want to stay by my side”

“ “Un...” “

When I reassure Allen and Elena who are full of anxiety, they cling in my arms even stronger.

After gathering information again, I have learned more things.

I have heard from the curious onlookers I have asked [With the noble backing him up, he does as he pleases] or [Recently influential], although on the level of rumors, the people at the shopping street knew quite a bit.

That slave trader—his Gist Company is supported by Baron Gilbert behind the scenes. The very same person who pressured the [Gold Wheat’s Shop].

Again!? I almost tsukkomi’d in a loud voice.

Baron Gilbert apparently came to this town in order to purchase slaves.

Moreover, aren’t they talking about “children twins”?

Baron Gilbert apparently came to this town thinking he would be able to obtain them and then flew into a rage when he didn’t find them at the store. I heard that from the people who passed by the store.

That's why the fuss from a while ago.

Because the children that he used to save himself suddenly appeared in front of him, he was going to obtain them whatever it takes.

It seems that those fellows are opponents who I have to crush with all my strength.

CHAPTER 35

POWER AGAINST POWER

“Alen, Elena. Good morning”

“ “ ” ”

Since yesterday, Allen and Elena would never move away from me.

And when I told them good morning today, the two looked at me with dispirited expressions without speaking. They have reverted to their original state they were in when I found them.

That slave trader really did it now!! I will absolutely not let him off!!

I have to prepare one ticket to hell for him..... fufufu...

First, I visit the Adventurer’s Guild and finish our business.

I secure several tens meters of Evil Viper’s skin and 100kg of its meat and sell the rest to the guild.

When the material such as Bloody Wolves was added, it was a significant sum of money. Even a Platinum coin was mixed in.

I kept half of the money on me and deposited the rest in the guild’s deposit.

Next stop is the Knights branch.

A messenger from the Knight’s came to the Inn yesterday evening telling me to visit the Knights next day. It seems to be about Sajesh.

This is convenient, so I went.

“———And that’s it”

First, Risner-sama reports about the matter.

Sajesh has been punished by two weeks of house arrest and three months of being demoted to an apprentice.

It's much stricter punishment than I thought. Although it's only three months, it will be probably hard to work as an apprentice.

"That's all from us. So, Takumi, what's wrong?"

Because I conveyed to the messenger yesterday that I would like to consult with Wald-sama about something, he asks me immediately after the report is finished.

"Actually... —"

First, I spoke about the problem with the slave trader.

As Allen and Elena are orphans, Wald-sama has guaranteed me last time that I'm their guardian. Therefore, it would be better to get the troubles out of my chest beforehand, right?

I mean, although the slave trader was taken to the station yesterday, there will definitely not be enough evidence. I don't think he will give up on the children that easily. He will definitely show up again.

And then, I explain what happened with [Gold's Wheat Shop] and Baron Gilbert.

I ask them about what to do since the opponent is a noble. Well, in this area, I don't rely on Wald-sama, but Risner-sama instead.

Would it be possible to cooperate? I had such plan.

Well, my intentions to let someone else take care of them.

I mean, this is a case where I have to smash someone up without directly touching them, right? If it would be directly, Allen and Elena would definitely come into contact with those fellows.

I don't want them to be affected by those fellows anymore. While that may be true, I have no intentions of leaving the twins.

There is no value in leaving the children behind in order to interfere with those fellows.

Therefore——take care of them!

Those fellows! Are definitely! Committing crimes.

Therefore, let's crush them with a frontal attack!

"I see... if it's about that, there's a more suitable person for that than us. Let's head over there"

Risner-sama who heard the story urges us to move.

"Excuse me"

"Oh? Isaac, huh. What's the matter?... N? This is?"

"He's Takumi Kayano-san"

"Oo! You are! I see, I see, I'm glad you came. Please sit down"

We leave Wald-sama's room, and Risner-sama guides me to a room with a friendly man in his thirties and another man also in his thirties who hadn't spoken yet.

"Takumi-san. This is the Commander and Commander's advisor"

"...I am glad to meet you. I'm Takumi Kayano..."

"Commander is son of Lauren House the feudal lord governing this territory"

"Derrick Lauren. There are several people of Lauren house in this town, so Derrick is alright"

The destination was the office of the commander of the Knights of Shirin.

The friendly man is Derrick Lauren. He's the most important person of the Knights of Shirin and the Lauren House's second son. Because his older brother was assigned to manage the territory, Derrick-sama became a Knight.

The second man is Philip Callan-sama. Commander's advisor. Not a vice-commander, but he seems to be in charge of administrative work.

Risner-sama has brought me to an incredible place, huh... tell me beforehand, please.

After the short introductions, I explained my business to the two.

"Fumu, I see. Alright, we will investigate!"

"Eh?"

Derrick-sama takes it in quickly.

It was too unexpected I let out a weird noise.

"Although I have asked you for help, is it alright for you to agree that easily?"

"You took care of my subordinates. Besides..."

When Derrick-sama glances at Callan-sama, Callan-sama clears his throat and starts explaining.

"Information about Baron Gilbert has been reported to the Knights before. He apparently does what he pleases, and reports are coming from here and there, the problems don't run out"

"There are rumors about that house behaving strangely lately"

"Yes. No special goods are coming from Baron Gilbert which should be covered by taxation, yet he's lavishly buying various luxurious products. Hearing Takumi-dono's story, his relation with the slave trader is suspicious"

"A lot of dust is likely to come out when you hit it, huh..."

"Yes. And in large quantities at that..."

Apparently, there are a lot of things Baron Gilbert is guilty of that I don't know yet.

Nevertheless, Risner-sama and Callan-sama... they are in a perfect sync... and their smiles are scary!

“That’s why we are already in the middle of an investigation. We also direct people towards Gilbert’s territory. Since this is an opportunity, let’s us handle your matter too. If we let him do as he pleases in our territory, our reputation will be affected too!”

Ah, un. Derrick-sama also looks quite angry.

Well, I don’t mind leaving it to you so please take care of it.

“Apart from that, about the [Gold Wheat’s Shop]! It’s the store where the new bread started, right? That bread is good! It’s just right to eat when the stomach is empty”

“That’s right. The “Phantom Bread” was especially delicious”

“What!? Isaac, you have eaten the “Phantom Bread”!?”

“Yes”

“Ku~ How! How did you obtain it!! It’s something sold out on days without set dates in few minutes! It’s impossible for someone like us the Knights with duty system to obtain it!!”

A person captivated by the sweet bread is also in here. Risner-sama looks proud to have eaten the Cream Bread...

Although not seemingly interested, Callan-sama also glances between Risner-sama and me. Is he perhaps concerned about the acquisition route of the Cream Bread?

“The reason why Takumi-dono is being concerned about [Gold Wheat’s Shop] affair should convey the only possibility”

“I see! They were given by Takumi!”

“Yes, Takumi-san is the inventor of the Cream Bread”

“What!? Is that true?”

“Hoo~”

“Y, yes...”

Scary!!

Derrick-sama’s and Callan-sama’s eyes look at me as beasts stalking their prey...

“Regarding the “Phantom Bread” although it’s possible to manage somehow, something similar may happen with person in power again, so Takumi-san seems to be troubled”

“Yosh! Lauren House will back you up!”

Back up? Lauren House?

What Risner-sama said is not wrong by any means.

Even if we tidy up this matter and reopen, I think that something similar may happen again. If we have a noble’s support, something like that will not occur ever again.

But, I’m not satisfied when things advance so smoothly...

“If you back us up, the “Phantom Bread”... Cream Bread, was it? You will make it for me, right?”

Uee!? The aim was the Cream Bread!?

Is he perhaps wanting to support us because of that!?

“What are you talking about? Something hard to obtain will become easy to obtain, you know?”

“That’s right. You should do whatever it takes to make hard to obtain things easy to obtain, you know?”

“...Is that so? Well, if you won’t say to make it when there are no ingredients at hand, that condition seems all right”

For things, you really want [Pay whatever the price], is it something like that? It’s backing this time, though...

“Yosh, then, let’s go now”

“Go? To the [Gold Wheat’s Shop]?”

“Naturally! Now that I will back you up I have to meet the shopkeeper!”

“That’s what you are saying, but in fact, you really just want to eat the Cream Bread, right?”

When Callan-sama points out, Derrick-sama's shoulder twitch. It seems he was right.

"Commander, you won't be able to eat the Cream Bread at the moment"

"What!?"

"That's only given. It takes time to make bread"

Callan-sama has a reasonable opinion, but...

"Ah~ ... you may be able to ... eat it?"

"Oh?"

I have asked Road-san to make a lot of bread yesterday, after all. Of course, I requested him to make some Cream Bread.

I think it should have been done soon~ Surely.

CHAPTER 36

SWIMMINGLY

I have accompanied Derrick-sama and Risner-sama to the [Gold Wheat's Shop].

Callan-sama stayed back to gather information. Nothing was said to Wald-sama. Riser-sama said [If he gets to know, he will definitely escape from work to tag along] ... Ah, right.

When we entered the shopping street, Allen and Elena added strength to the hands they were holding me with.

The two watched their surroundings with vigilance. It's not often that the two who can detect presences unconsciously "look for something" with their own eyes.

There are no "fear" or "hate" emotions on their faces, but that thing from yesterday probably stirred things that are deeply rooted in the innermost depths of their hearts.

I must urgently think of something to divert them from thinking about this...

When we enter the [Gold Wheat's Shop] the bread has just finished baking as Road-san was just taking it out of the oven.

Un, smells nice~

"Road-san, excuse me for the intrusion"

"Ou Takumi, you have co... me... eeh!?"

Road-san notices the Knights who have entered behind me and he got so surprised he almost dropped the bread. Then [If you are about to bring big shots, inform me beforehand!] he said.

Ah, yes, I'm sorry. I also thought similarly just a while ago. However, they suddenly wanted to come to the store, so I didn't have a choice~

"This is the Knight Commander Derrick-sama. He's the son of the Lauren House"

“W, what!? La, Lauren house!! F, feudal lord’s son!?”

First, I introduce Derrick-sama and Risner-sama to Road-san. Then, knowing Derrick-sama’s identity, Road-san was very nervous around the feudal lord’s son.

I see, this is the normal reaction...

Somehow, I’m ignorant of social status in Aetherdia. I was originally brought up on Earth where social positions are not so different, but the knowledge about this world implemented in me was with Syl’s specifications, so it makes me lump all “people” together.

Therefore, even when talking to a noble, I don’t feel much obligated.

Well, I think there won’t be any problems if I speak politely, but... how it really is? There weren’t any problems until now so it’s all right I think?

“Road-san, is the Cream Bread baked yet?”

“O, ou. It’s done...”

“Hou. So this is the Cream Bread~”

“Derrick-sama, please have some”

“Ou, sorry about that. Lemme see... ——”

When the finished Cream Bread is finished, Derrick-sama receives it and immediately bites in.

When I asked Risner-sama if he also wants to eat, [Of course, I will have some too] he answered.

“Oo, delicious!!”

Derrick-sama seemed to like the Cream Bread very much and ate it all.

“By the way, what is that? I have not seen this in any store before”

“This is something new Takumi told me to make...”

“What!? New product!”

Derrick-sama quickly finds a new product and stared at it fixedly.

The person who made it, Road-san, probably haven't even sampled it yet. He seemed very interested but kept his attitude firm in front of Derrick-sama and Risner-sama.

Risner-sama wasn't staring at Derrick-sama, but he also looked interested.

Actually, I found a red bean that is similar to the adzuki bean¹. After immersing that red bean in water overnight, I boiled it in a nectar liquid... gum syrup? No, I boiled it in an even thinner watery sap of trees with sugar and created a red bean paste.

The nectar liquid is even easier to obtain than sugar, I thought Road-san could use that instead, and it turned out well.

I handed the red bean paste to Road-san and asked him to wrap it just like the Cream Bread and bake it.

It turned out delicious if I say myself. The sweetness is perfect.

After that, we also made bread containing Cyan fruit and bright yellow walnuts called Kuru nuts with millet bread as a base.

"This one is Anpan². The another one is a millet bread with Cyan fruit and Kuru nuts mixed in"

They have just eaten the Cream bread, but Derrick-sama and Risner-sama immediately ate the new products.

Un. These also received a favorable review.

When I handed half of the Anpan each to Allen and Elena, they ate it deliciously.

There are relatively many people who don't like red bean paste, but these members seem not to have that problem.

Incidentally, I like both Tsubuan³ and Koshian⁴. I didn't make it this time, but I should definitely try making it later.

"Iya~ That was delicious"

The satisfied Derrick-sama asked Road-san 2-3 questions.

And then, because Derrick-sama hasn't fault any problem with Road-san's personality,

he talked about the backing of [Gold Wheat's Shop].

Road-san who was bowing [Much grateful] suddenly looked at me and started complaining.

Eh, what, what? You didn't hear anything about this?

Iya I mean~ this is something that was suddenly decided on. Look~ This thing is good at manipulating noble-samas.

It's not my fault.

“Well then, we shall return and promptly move to smash that conceited fool~”

This person seriously came just to eat the Cream bread...

Derrick-sama went back satisfied, parting after saying he will send a messenger from Lauren House later to formally arrange things.

Just in case, I give Risner-sama presents to hand them to Callan-sama who looked so envious and Wald-sama who is doing his best at working in the branch.

“Oi, Takumi!!”

“It's a course of events. I also didn't think it would end up like this”

Road-san approached me after Derrick-sama and Risner-sama left.

Ah~ I didn't tell Road-san that Derrick-sama is backing us up because of the Cream bread. Is he perhaps worried about collateral?

I should explain that properly.



I was fully concerned about Allen and Elena after throwing all the difficult things aside. I hug them close more than necessary and pat their heads. I'm affectionate to them to their heart's content.

As a result, Allen's and Elena's condition almost returned back. Almost as they were before meeting the slave trader.

“ “Yummy~” “

“Is that so? I’m glad~”

The thing the two are eating now is a fruit jelly.

Of course, I made it.

The ingredient is this.

【Slime Jelly】

Slime remains. Squishy object.

Not harmful to the human body, but has no benefits either.

Vulnerable to heat, melts when warmed up.

It’s a drop item from the slimes we defeated in the Dungeon of Earth.

There’s a lot, I should make something out of this~ I thought.

It’s called “jelly” and it’s not harmful to the human body so let’s make jelly. I tried making it with such simple thinking.

I heated fruit juice in the pot, melted the slime jelly inside, then I poured it into glasses where it splendidly solidified. The slime jelly played the role of a gelatin wonderfully.

The ratio of two liters of liquid to 1 slime jelly, had a good feeling.

The texture is much more squishy than that of a traditional jelly, but that’s also good!

I tried making it only with fruit juice at first, but I tried making it with various fruit compotes after that. Starting with Ranka fruit’s juice, Riigo fruit’s juice, milk, black tea... I made it with everything I could think of.

I was so absorbed in the making, that I unnoticeably amassed a mountain of jelly. Ah~... it’s not like it will go bad, there’s no problem since it will become Allen’s and Elena’s snack from now on, right?

After several days of doing that, all the problems in question were put in order.

Iya~ it was quicker than I expected~

An investigation on the Gist Company under the Callan-sama has started, but well~ that slave trader was mistreating his slaves, and his business was suspended right after getting exposed. Then, the house search by the Knights was performed.

It came out, it came out! A Large amount of evidence on backroom deals has been found.

There was also an account book for transactions with Baron Gilbert.

Baron Gilbert apparently used Gist Company for human trafficking. There apparently were many people in the company's underground cells that weren't slaves.

That being the case, a shred of evidence against Baron Gilbert was found, and investigations on the House of Baron Gilbert have begun.

The baron seems to have done other backroom deals than human trafficking like camouflaging of branded goods, etc. It appears that documents about the products and contracts were kept carefully in a secret warehouse in the Baron's basement.

Baron Gilbert seemingly hid his crimes well, but his connections to the Gist Company became apparent. Following on the Gist Company, they were able to pull Baron Gilbert skillfully in and I was invited to the Commander Derrick's office where I received words of gratitude.

The Gist Company's slave trader was sent to the mines and Baron Gilbert was sent together with the evidence to the Royal Capital.

Although I expected this, Baron Gilbert will certainly be punished by imprisonment and deprivation of his rank. He apparently may even receive the capital punishment. Furthermore, it seems his family members supported him, so they will be made into crime slaves.

They really are getting what they deserve!

I felt refreshed, and the daily peaceful life returned.

Footnotes

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adzuki_bean
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anpan>
3. Tsubuan (粒餡), whole red beans boiled with sugar but otherwise untreated
4. Koshian (漉し餡), beans passed through a sieve to remove bean skins; the most common type

CHAPTER 37

DEPARTURE

“With this, we can go on a journey without any worries”

“What!?” “Haa!?” “N?” “Oh?”

In order, Derrick-sama, Wald-sama, Callan-sama, and Risner-sama.

All of them let out silly voices because of my announcement.

Are? Did I not tell them before?

“Takumi, are you leaving Shirin?”

“Yes. I actually wanted to leave earlier, but I was concerned about the matter with Baron Gilbert”

At least, I wanted to resolve the matter with [Gold Wheat’s Shop] before going on a journey.

I think that if the problem were only the slave trader, I would quickly leave the town. It would look like running away, but dealing with fellows like that is troublesome.

I think it was good that all the problems got settled as a result.

“Have you decided on your destination?”

“I thought about going south towards the sea”

“I see... so you are staying in the country...”

When I said that I’m [Going south], the four people made expressions of relief.

Is that it? Do they want to keep human resources in the country?

In a case of emergency, the magnitude of the damage will change depending on the available fighting power. It must be something that Knights must consider at all times.

“The south, is it? Which means, Bailey?”

“Yes, that’s right”

The destination has been pretty much decided on the port Bailey on the Southwest of Guardia.

The season is already a complete summer. It’s all about sea when it comes to summer, right?

I thought about showing the sea to Allen and Elena.

Ordinary people would travel from town to town, and it would take at least a month by carriage to arrive. If that would be the case, summer would already be at its final stage, so I intend to ride Joule and others, that way we can expect to arrive in a few days.

Because of that, there’s no need to hesitate.

“Takumi-san, here”

“A letter? Risner-sama, this is?”

Risner-sama hands me a single letter.

Hearing our destination, Risner-sama borrowed tools from Callan-sama and wrote it on the spot.

“It’s a letter of introduction to the feudal lord of Bailey”

“Eh!?”

To think it was for the feudal lord-sama!?

I inadvertently retracted the hand I was about to receive the letter with.

“Bailey’s feudal lord is my acquaintance. I will contact him so definitely visit him when you arrive in Bailey. I don’t mind if you force him to support bakery, etc.”

“Eeh!?”

Not “rely on” but “I don’t mind if you force him”... What are you saying! As expected, something like that is not possible.

Risner-sama continues to present me the letter while grinning.

Ah~ the well-prepared smile... it's not something I can go against~

I look around asking for help, but as expected no one wants to help me. If I had to say they have a “receive it” feeling.

I decided to accept it gratefully.

Even so, I have no intention of forcing my troubles on him. Let's rely on him only when in a difficult situation.

I may ask him to support the bakery, though...

After finishing my business with the Knights, I visited the Adventurer's Guild, Road-san, and the Inn to say goodbye.

When I said we are leaving, everyone was surprised. We were detained at the Adventurer's Guild.

Luna-san particularly had a very sorrowful look on her face, she looked like she would start clinging to me at any moment.

It must be because I'm an important supplier of material from Gaya Forest. I feel slightly empty inside that there was no love element involved.....

The next morning was an ideal day for the departure.

We departed from Shirin and soon walked off the highway. After confirming that there are no people around, I summoned my Contracted beasts.

[Waffu] [Gau] [Pii]

The three immediately nestle close to me.

“O~ Yoshiyosh”

I could hardly summon the Contracted beasts before. They may be sulky that it took so long to call them.

First of all, I decided to pat them to their heart's content.

After the three animals had been satisfied to a certain degree, I conveyed the calling matter.

“Joule and Feat will transport us”

[Waffu] [Gau]

“Bolt will fly in the sky and keep track of human presences”

[Pii]

As the three replied in acknowledgment, I promptly seated Allen and Elena on Joule and climbed on Feat’s back myself.

I told Joule and Feat to start running along Gaya Forest.

Just in case, I had Bolt to fly up and watch from above.

Like that, it’s less probable to meet people. I can’t help but think that meeting with people would be troublesome.

I imagine riding on S-Rank monsters would make a ruckus. Therefore, just in case.

Sometimes, a monster emerges from within Gaya Forest. Then, Joule and Feat would lower us down and go to defeat it.

Iya~ Our kids are strong. They defeat most of the opponents in a single blow. As expected of S-Rank monsters. How reliable.

Moreover, they return bringing the defeated monsters in their mouths, how considerable.

“ “Good child~” “

Allen and Elena praise Joule and Feat who returned from the hunt. Good child, good child, they pat their heads.

Even if Allen and Elena stand on their tiptoes, they are not able to reach Joule’s and Feat’s heads. Because of that, Joule and Feat lower their heads to make it easier.

It’s little clumsy, but a heartwarming scene.

[Waffu] [Gau]

“Haa~! Wait a moment!!”

After having their heads patted, this time Joule and Feat tried to lick Allen’s and Elena’s faces back, so I stop them in panic.

“Joule, Feat, don’t lick!! Haven’t you just bite on the Bloody Bear!? Your mouths are bloody!!”

[Waffu!?] [Gau!?]

Joule and Feat stiffen with a twitch.

What!?... they look at me with such expression.

You are really easy to understand, but I can’t help but think you are not beasts...

“Look, I will make you neatly clean so don’t move. [Washing]”

[Waffu!] [Gau!]

“ “Ukya~” “

The moment Joule and Feat became clean they started licking Allen’s and Elena’s faces.

Ah, they pushed Allen and Elena down...

O~i. Be careful not to squash them~

Seeing such situation, Bolt cries [Pii] on top of my shoulder. For some reason, it felt like he was saying... good grief.

Because Allen and Elena are having fun I didn’t stop them, just moved closer in case Joule and Feat will start crushing them.

“ “Unya~” “

[Waffu~] [Gau~]

“Uo!”

While playing with each other, the two children and two animals suddenly charged at me.

It's okay if it's just Allen and Elena, but as expected I won't be able to catch two big animals. In short, I have been pushed down.

Ah, Bolt has evacuated...

The two children and two animals looked with a joyful expression of success.

“You~”

First, I tickle Allen and Elena who fell on me with all my might.

After that, I got up and rubbed Joule's and Feat's cheeks.

“ “Ukya~” “

[Waffuu~] [Gauu~]

Oya? You are happy?

I intended to do that as punishment, but it looks like I was unsuccessful.

But oh~ well.

CHAPTER 38

TO THE SEA

Because we are not traveling in a hurry, I have decided to go in the Gaya Forest to exercise.

Unlike the last time hunting where Joule and Feat used their claws and fangs, they use magic to kill monsters.

Joule covers the dead bodies around with ice magic [Freeze] into one large lump of ice. Feat uses the wind magic [Float] to make the lump of ice fly and brings it to my side.

Skillful. And clever... they are learning properly.

When they were fighting at close range, I had no choice but to clean them with my [Washing].

Well, it's alright, though. It's not magic that consumes much of magical power.

...It's just, those fellows won't get satisfied unless they can lick after each battle... Well, it makes Allen and Elena happy so... oh well?

We loiter around the forest and hunt.

Then, before I notice, the children and the Contracted beasts compete at monster hunting.

When a monster is found, all members charge, defeat the monster, bring it to me, get patted by me.

That is the course of events.

Once in a while, Bolt would [Thunderbolt] a monster from the sky the moment he finds it. When that happens, the two children and the other two animals look really vexed.

"Uwa!!"

When they are feeling down because they couldn't get praised, I pat them with the intention of consoling, and they jump into action again.

You guys, calm down a bit~

As the area became dark, I have decided to leave Gaya Forest for the camp.

Riding on Joule and Feat, we can get out quickly, and the outside of Gaya Forest is safe.

When the camping site is decided, we have the dinner next.

“Allen, Elena. What would you like to eat?”

“ “N..... Cream!” “

Because both Allen and Elena love Cream bread, it frequently ends up as their snack of choice.

But, making Cream bread as a dinner menu is a bit... I would like them to choose something more nutritious.

“N~ Allen, Elena. Cream bread is not good for a dinner... How about having it tomorrow as breakfast snack?”

“ “Ye~s” “

“Let’s see... How about Oyakodon¹? The one with an egg on rice”

“ “Will eat~” “

“It’s decided then”

Although it felt like I have incited them, because the two obediently accepted the compromise plan, Oyakodon has been chosen for the dinner.

“Joule, Feat, and Bolt want meat, right? Raw?”

[Waffu~u]

“N? No? Grilled is better?”

[Waffuwaffu]

“I see. Joule wants it grilled. Does Feat also prefer it grilled?”

[Gaun]

“What about Bolt?”

[Piiii]

The Contracted beast fundamentally don't require feeding. Apparently, when Contracted beasts are supplemented with magical power while in their master's shadow which restores their energy.

However, because they can eat, they are having a meal together with us like this.

Because of that, I have asked them what they want to eat, but it seems my Contracted beasts like grilled meat better than raw...

Raw meat? They shook their heads when I asked.

Grilled meat tastes better. Looks like they have the same opinion as people.

These children seem to enjoy “food” with a strong taste more.

Grilled meat or Oyakodon, which is better? When asked, all three choose the latter. It seems the same menu as ours is better.

Even if I were going to make just one serving, it wouldn't be much trouble to make more. Therefore, I have decided to make Oyakodon for six.

Aren't spring onions bad for felines? Is what I thought, but since there seems to be no problem, I cook the onions and guineafowl with soy sauce and finish it up with half boiled egg.

“Well then, itadakimasu”

“ “Itadakima~shu” “ [Waffu] [Gau] [Pii]

Un, delicious!

I must say that finishing Oyakodon with a half boiled egg dripping on top of it is delicious.

Allen and Elena also eat while stuffing their mouths with spoons with utmost effort.

I have served the food for Joule and others on a plate to make it easier for them to eat, but Bolt is dexterously using his beak while Joule and Feat stuff their mouths around the plate in their small forms.

Apparently, they can enjoy the taste more while in their small forms.

Well, if they eat in their adult forms, they would eat it in two or three bites after all.

“ “Joule” “

[Waffu]

When it was time to sleep, Joule’s stomach became a substitute of the cushion for the three of us. Joule’s fur is soft and comfy...

Today is Joule’s turn, but because it has been decided that the cushion role will alternate, it’s Feat’s turn tomorrow.

I thought it was bad to treat them as cushions at first, but rather it was the other way around.

Joule’s tail was intensively hitting the ground as if saying quickly over here.

Because it doesn’t look like I have to hold back, I lean against Joule while asking Feat and Bolt to stand guard.

That being said, Feat and Bolt are in a resting postures next to us. Every single of my children is sensitive to presences after all. There won’t be any problems.

Ah, the moons...

Aetherdia has three moons. Yellow, blue, and red. Three colored moons rise into the sky.

Which reminds me, this is my first time camping in a place where the sky is clearly visible. Sky can’t be seen from within Gaya Forest, then there was the dungeon.

A night sky after a long time.

Gazing at several moons, I realize again that this is a different world.

Has it been a little over a month since I came to Aetherdia?

So many things happened so fast... I fall asleep while thinking such.



I have decided to go to Gaya Forest the next day too.

Allen, Elena, Joule, and others apparently haven’t played sufficiently yet.

We are gathering medicinal plants today.

“There~”

“Many~”

“There really are many...”

Ah~ Demon Spirit Grass.

Maryoku Grass is relatively common, but Demon Spirit Grass should have been a valuable medicinal plant...

Because Gaya Forest itself is a place full of magic, does it grow densely here?

And to find a place where they grow en masse at that...

[Waffu]

This time, Joule seem to have found something.

It's a Soul Grass... quite a rare medicinal plant again... I'm sure it's used as nostrum.

[Gau]

The next one is Feat, huh. This is Touka Grass.

Because it's leaves are transparent, it's quite difficult to find plant...

Nose? Did Feat find it by smell?

[Pii]

Ah, Bolt has found Minsu fruit.

Minsu in fact is a plum-like fruit. It's bigger than typical plum, it's very sour, but it's nutritional value is high, it's used for medicinal tonics as it has nourishing properties.

There seem to be quite a lot on the tree. Bolt drops it with his beak, and I catch it when it falls.

Nevertheless, aren't we finding quite a lot rare things in high demands?

“Ah!” “

Allen and Elena seem to have found something again as they run towards a tree.
Now then, what did they find this time?

Moving while sufficiently playing along the way, we finally saw a sea a week later after leaving Shirin.

It can be said we moved at quite a high pace to arrive in just a week.

“Allen, Elena, that is the sea”

“ “Sea~ Big~” “

Allen and Elena gaze at the sea with sparkling eyes.

“ “Water, a lot~” “

“That’s right. All of that is a salty water”

“ “Delish~?” “

“It’s not tasty? You shouldn’t drink it”

“ “Ye~s” “

I had to say it because they would drink the water as soon as arriving at the beach.
Like this, they won’t probably drink it.

We immediately stepped onto the beach.

The beach without any man-made objects is quiet with the only roaring of the waves resounding.

While Allen and Elena are playing at the water’s edge——

“That... may I ask if you are Takumi-sama?”

“...You are?”

Suddenly, I was spoken to by a woman who emerged from the sea.

Umm... why do you know my name?

“I’m Mirena of the mermaid tribe”

Haa!? Say what!?

CHAPTER 39

MERMAID

“...You are?”

“I’m Mirena of the mermaid tribe”

“...!”

Seriously!? A mermaid she says!!

When I appraise her in a rush——

Status

【Name】 Mirena

【Race】 Mermaid

【Occupation】

【Age】 26

【Level】 17

【Skills】

Spearmanship | Water Magic

Dismantling | Night Vision | Detection

Swimming | Cultivation

Cooking | Singing

Mental Status Resistance

【Titles】

Uwaa~ it’s true. Her race is Mermaid.

This woman is without a doubt a mermaid. Only her upper body is visible, so I can only see an ordinary human woman.

As expected, diving under the sea to confirm would be rude, but does this woman has a tailfin as expected?

It’s a mermaid! I want to confirm right away, but patience. Patience...

“Why do you know about me?”

“I was informed about you by Water God’s retainer-sama”

Haa? From Water God’s retainer-sama?

First, I confirmed how does the mermaid woman know about me, but an unexpected answer has come back.

...Just what is going on?

“Come again, the Water God’s retainer-sama has...”

“I have been advised that you would be able to solve a problem we are facing. Takumi-sama, could I request your assistance, please? “

What’s with that... just what did the Water God’s retainer-sama say to these people?

In addition to that, Mirena-san must have been informed beforehand that we will come here.

“Umm... an assistance you say...”

“For the details, we have to go to our village. Could we move there first?”

Mirena-san asks while deeply bowing her head.

If you ask me like that, there’s no way I could reject, but...

“No, no, wait a moment. Your village is definitely under the sea, right? Even if we can swim, we won’t be able to go there”

Because we won’t be able to breathe.

Rather, in the first place, can I swim? In the past... of course, I could swim!

Well, I know the method of swimming itself so if it’s the present body I feel like I could do it. My motor nerves have exceptionally improved after all.

Regarding Allen and Elena, I think that they would immediately master swimming if

shown. We are talking about those two after all...

But, even if they were able to swim, as expected it would not be possible for them to breathe underwater. No... I have a feeling that they would be able to stay underwater for quite a lot of time because of an outrageous lung capacity...

But even that would not allow us to stay underwater for a longer period of time.

"I am prepared in regard of that"

".....?"

"...Please wait for a moment"

When I was lost in my thoughts, Mirena-san takes something out and presents it to me.

U~n... what's that?

Silver... I wonder? I can see a looped string-like thing sitting in Mirena-san's palm, but... I don't know what that is.

Because we are at the water's edge and Mirena-san in the sea, there's a subtle distance between us.

When I tilt my head, Mirena-san lets the thing in her hand float on the sea's surface. It gets jolted by the waves and slowly drifts to us little by little.

It didn't feel like the waves were natural, was it manipulated by Water magic?

When I pick up the floating thing, it was a bracelet. With an engraved thin curious pattern. It feels hard on touch, but it's not a mineral? What is it?

I thought it was silver, but it looks iridescent because of the reflections. A mysterious color.

I couldn't figure anything out just by looking so I appraise it straight away.

【Mermaid Bracelet】

A bracelet made with the scales of a mermaid.

A magic tool that allows breathing under water.

In addition, it wraps entire body in a thin film, preventing clothes from getting wet.

Oo, a fantastic magic tool has appeared.

Certainly, with something like this, there won't be any problems with breathing.

I had a feeling it's not made from minerals like iron or gold, but the material were actually scales of a mermaid! Indeed, I didn't expect that.

The mysterious color is related to mermaid scales. It's convincing then.

"We will certainly be all right with this"

"Then!?"

A delightful expression floats on Mirena-san's face.

"I would like to see the Mermaid village, so I don't mind going, but... I may not be able to resolve your problem, you know?"

"That does not matter! Please come by all means!"

I'm not sure I can help because I didn't hear the details.

Should I have asked first? But, she told she would explain in detail in the village so...

But, the Water God's retainer-sama gave a seal of approval, so it's probably not something too difficult. And even if I'm not successful, looking at Mirena-san's reaction, I won't get blamed either.

Following in itself is an introduction to the Water God's retainer-sama. A person(?) who is worried about Allen and Elena. They wouldn't let the twins approach something dangerous. There shouldn't be any problem.

"Then, I will borrow this bracelet"

"No, I offer that to you. Please think of it as a fee for going to the village. Of course, if you have problem with that, we will prepare a different remuneration in the village"

"No, no, this is something precious, right!?"

"There are people engaged in magic tools in the village, so quite a number of them exist. To begin with, this magic tool is necessary in order to enter the village, so please accept it without reservation"

I thought it's a valuable magic tool, but this bracelet apparently isn't that valuable to the mermaids.

Because the material is the scales of mermaids, they probably don't lack materials to make it...

Well, that. If she says to take it, I will take it.

I retrieve Joule and others who were guarding around the sandy beach to my shadow and put on the bracelets on Allen's and Elena's arms. Then, I put one on myself, hold the two's hands and enter the sea.

When the depth of water reached my shin, I tried raising my leg from the water.

Oo, it really didn't get wet. This is incredible!

My clothes and boots are totally dry. I'm deeply moved by the performance of this magic tool.

It allows breathing underwater, but there are no problems yet, so it's possible to use it on the surface too? If I put it on a rainy day, I won't get wet?

It looks like this magic tool can be used for something it wasn't originally made for. I obtained something good~

When we reached a certain depth, I timidly tried to dive in a while holding Allen's and Elena's hands.

"!"

Iya~ how exciting~

Even though I know that I can breathe without problems, I can't help it but be nervous about the first breath, right?

"Is everything all right?"

"Y, yes. Everything's fine"

Breathing aside, talking underwater is also a strange feeling.

However, it's so amusing!

My heart is throbbing experiencing something I never did before.

Allen and Elena also seem to be enjoying themselves underwater.

Breathing is alright, the next one would be swimming...

"Ah~ ... Allen, Elena... are you okay?"

" "Fun~" "

"I see..."

Un, there doesn't seem to be a problem.

When I release their hands, the two are normally swimming.

I knew. This development is exactly as I imagined!

Still, isn't this too fast!? They are already... smoothly swimming, you know!!

Ah~ Since the two are alright, I will try to swim too.

I position my body horizontally, extend my arms and flap with my legs.

Breaststroke? Crawl? I somehow know the form, but I never have done it before, though!

From time to time, I move my hands to paddle the water and move forward.

Oo, is this okay? I am swimming properly... I think.

Umm... like this? Then, like this... oo? I am swimming?!

I tried breaststroke for a trial, I was able to do it. I wasn't able to do it in the slightest in the past... I'm a bit happy.

Ah! Right, the mermaid!

I was too absorbed in trying to swim so I did not check the thing about Mirena-san.

When I look at Mirena-san again, it was the same as the illustrations that appear in fantasy novels and manga, the upper body of a woman in a bikini and the lower body of a fish.

The scales of the lower part of body went from light red to dark red, it gets darker as you go from the waist to the tailfin, a beautiful gradation.

“Ah~ ... I have kept you waiting. Everything’s fine now”

Crap. While observing in a trance, my eyes matched Mirena-san’s.

Mirena-san was quietly watching over us while we were learning to swim... she’s smiling for some reason...

I approached Mirena-san and told her that everything is fine now and we can move.

“I understand. Then, let’s depart”

“Ah, yes. Allen, Elena. Let’s go~”

“ “Ye~s” “

We start swimming after Mirena-san who is guiding us to her village.

CHAPTER 40

UNDERSEA STROLL AND REQUEST

“Allen, Elena, you alright~?”

“ “Al~right” “

“Don’t get too far away, okay?”

“ “Ye~s” “

Although unfamiliar to swimming, Allen and Elena keep on swimming without any problems.

Moreover, they can swim at such speed I thought they had a propeller attached.

A world record is not a problem.

There is a big difference between them and myself who is still swimming somewhat awkwardly. I should get quickly used to it...

“Mirena-san, what kind of monsters are around here?”

“The monster around here are mainly Sand Crabs and Bomb Shelters, they are not that strong. When we get a little bit deeper, more powerful monsters will appear, but... the most troublesome among them would be probably the Giant Killer Shark”

Giant Killer Shark... a C-Rank monster.

Although it’s C-Rank, will it be okay since we are not used to the underwater combat?

“Ah, that’s Hammerfish”

While speaking about monsters that appear in the vicinity, it appeared at once.

Hammerfish is an E-Rank monster.

A monster of Bluefin tuna size with the point of its head shaped like a hammer. It’s not that dangerous monster if you pay attention to its head which it uses as a blunt weapon.

“ “Yaa!” “

Ah, Allen and Elena swim at superspeed and kick it.

Un, that's an instant death.

It seems that being underwater doesn't hinder Allen and Elena one bit. Rather, I feel like their attack power and speed is better than on the surface.

If one is a relative of the Water God, is the underwater combat his specialty?

“Onii~chan”

“Fish~”

“Thank you”

Allen and Elena return with the Hammerfish by holding it by its hammer part.

“ “Ah” “

After the two hand me the Hammerfish, they notice a monster again.

N~ The one who appeared seems to be the Sand Crab.

It's about 6~70cm tall counting its shell. It will be even taller if it extends its legs, though.

“Weird~!”

“Kita~!”

Until now, their opponents were only animal and insect type monsters, so seeing fish and crustacean type monsters for the first time gets Allen and Elena in high spirits.

“Be careful of the claws. Don't get hurt okay~”

“ “Ye~s” “

I remind the two who swam towards the crab right after discovering it to be careful. It would be dangerous if they get caught by the crab's claws... —Is what I thought, but it looks like I didn't have to worry.

The two quickly defeat the Sand Crab and return while each holding one of its claws.

“ “This, what is it~?” “

“Sand Crab. It's a crab”

“ “Crab~?” “

“It's delicious when boiled. Would you like to eat it next time?”

“ “Will eat~!” “

Sand Crab's raw meat itself is gritty, but it seems to be delicious when heated.

It's alright to eat it as is, but when it comes to crab, it's a Kani Nabe¹ after all! It's out of season, but it doesn't matter, right?

Let's make it immediately once we return to the surface!

After that, Allen and Elena crisply defeated all monsters which appeared.

Mirena-san who saw Allen and Elena defeat the monsters one by one says in amazement with her eyes blinking.

“.....They are strong, aren't they?...”

“Hahaha~...”

Un, I tried to laugh it off for the time being.



About two hours after diving into the sea.

“Wha!?”

“Welcome and thank you for coming. This is our village”

Suddenly, something like a blue crystal appeared in front of me. The size is of a small mountain.

Even though the scenery was just a mere seascape until a while ago... Which reminds me, I just passed through something like a thin membrane.

Camouflage? Some kind of an illusion barrier?

“What have we passed through just now?”

“You have noticed? It’s as you guess. An illusion that makes it look like nothing is there and a barrier which prevents monsters to invade. Two barriers are set up here”

“Since we have entered it means that humans are able to enter?”

“Even if it’s humans, they won’t be able to enter. It’s possible to enter only if they go together just like us”

I see. If Mirena-san weren’t with us, we wouldn’t be able to pass through the barrier. Nevertheless, just what is this crystal like thing...

【Sea Crystal】

A crystal that the sea itself crystallized into.

Conceals the power of the sea.

“...Sea Crystal?”

“Yes, that’s right. Because this is the Blue Sea, we all call it the Blue Waters Shrine”

Because I see people coming in and out of the Sea Crystal, the crystal itself must be the residence... It’s probably something like the Mermaid Castle.

The semitransparent blue crystal has the appearances of a simple castle. If I had to say, the blue crystal looks more like a mountain than a castle.

However, it has very magical, overwhelming aura.

Blue Waters Shrine... This can only be called “sugoi.”

“Sparkly~”

“Pretty~”

“Yeah. It’s very pretty”

“Fufufu. Thank you very much. I will guide you inside later, but could you follow me to the back of the Blue Waters Shrine first, please?”

“Ah, yes”

After a while of gazing at the Blue Waters Shrine, Mirena-san guided us to the back of the Blue Waters Shrine.

There is a rock face in the back, behind the Blue Waters Shrine, but——

“I would like you to do something about this”

“A ship?”

There is a fairly large ship at the place where Mirena-san guides us to.

It beautifully sunk between the rock face and the rear of the Blue Waters Shrine.

“There is an entrance to the cave where we raise corals, but as you can see it has been blocked by this ship. The people of the village gathered to do something about it before, but we weren’t able to move it even an inch... While greatly perplexed what to do, the Blue Waters Shrine’s lord, Miko Himesama received an oracle”

The ship fell exactly right between.

There are almost no gaps between the rock face and the rear of the Blue Waters Shrine.

If the ship was a slightly bigger it wouldn’t block the entrance and if it was slightly smaller, the mermaids would be able to move it themselves.

Iya~ It fits in perfectly.

Indeed, it’s possible for me to remove it. After all, I just have to put it in the [Infinite Storage].

“I can remove this immediately”

I approach the sunken ship and store it in the [Infinite Storage].

When I confirm the [Infinite Storage] list, the sunken ship (Dietlinde model) was properly showing up.

The Dietlinde model seems to be a cargo ship as many barrels, and wooden boxes were collected together.

Well, I would have to check the boxes one by one as I don't know what's inside.

What to do with this? It's sunk into the sea, and the boxes are soaked wet.

It depends on the objects, but I expect most of them being ruined.

What should I do if it's food?

It wouldn't be spoiled, but it would definitely be in a totally terrible condition... I don't want to check the contents...

U~n... for the time being, let's leave it like that.

Nevertheless, as there were no dead bodies, the sailors must have been able to escape before the ship sunk.

As expected, I would feel awkward carrying people's corpses in the [Infinite Storage].

"Is it all right like this?"

Uwa!

When I turned around, other mermaids gathered beside Mirena-san before I noticed.

"Thank you very much!"

"It's nothing, rather than that, shouldn't you take a look at the coral?"

"That's right"

I see a cave entrance in the rock face, that must be it.

Mirena-san gives instructions to the other mermaids in a hurry and several people enter the cave.

"Is that coral an important coral?"

“Yes. It’s used as material in various medicines. Especially us, mermaids, need a specific medicine to cure illness, therefore we can’t afford to lose that coral”

That is very important then.

I’m certain that corals... inhabit only places with clear water?

I don’t know when the ship sunk, I hope it didn’t wither away...

“Fortunately, not much time passed since the ship sunk, so there wasn’t much damage done. You have really saved us”

“Is that so? I’m glad I could be of help”

Unexpectedly, the ship seems to have sunk only a few days ago.

Although I wouldn’t be blamed, I would not be able to bear it if the coral got destroyed.

“Well then, Miko Himesama is waiting, let me guide you there”

Next is the meeting with Himesama, huh~ She said the Lord of the Blue Water Shrine, right?

Now then, what kind of person is she?

CHAPTER 41

MIKO-SAMA AND REWARD

The atmosphere in the Blue Waters Shrine overflows with “harmony.”

Magic tools shaped as lanterns are illuminating the path, the grid windows, and the bridge railing gives off a feeling of the old capital, Kyoto.

“Miko Himesama, I have brought Takumi-sama, Allen-sama, and Elena-sama”

“Please, enter”

We were guided to the most inner part of the Blue Waters Shrine where the Miko Himesama is.

There is a light-blue haired girl in her teens and an elderly man inside the spacious room.

Is this girl the Miko Himesama?

The gracefully smiling girl is wearing a celestial kimono, emitting an aura of a young princess.

“Takumi-sama, Allen-sama, Elena-sama. Welcome”

“Umm... Thank you very much for inviting us?”

“Fufufu. Please, do not be so stiff. Rather, we are the ones who should show respect to you”

“Eh!?”

Wait a moment! What do you mean?

I got startled by Miko Himesama’s words.

Miko Himesama is a great person in the Mermaid Tribe, right? Why should a person like that show respect to me?

“I have heard that Takumi-sama is a benefactor of the Water God’s Retainer-sama”

“Miko Himesama, thanks to Takumi-sama, our problem have also been solved. I have other people checking the coral right at this moment”

“I am really glad. Then, Takumi-sama is our benefactor, is he not?”

“That’s right”

“No, that’s a little...”

Hey, Water God’s Retainer-sama~ What kind of nonsense have you told them~~

Just how much have you told them? Surely, you didn’t expose my true identity, did you!?

“Err... I don’t know what you were told, but if you know that...”

“Please, do not worry. Only the three of us here know about the Oracle I have received. Naturally, we will not reveal it”

“Thank you very much. Incidentally, what were you told...”

Just in case, I ask how much they know...

“I have heard that Takumi-sama is a person of principles and very kind person”

“.....Please, give me a break”

Is she talking about me!?

Just what have you told them~~ Please stop iiit~

“Fufu. You are exactly as Retainer-sama said”

.....

I’m troubled... I’m worried about what the Water God’s Retainer-sama told Miko Himesama, but I have a feeling that I don’t want to know...

“Miko Himesama, Takumi-sama is troubled”

“Ara, Gard. I am just telling the truth, there is no reason for Takumi-sama to be

troubled”

“Then, you wouldn’t mind if I tell him on the day of the first meeting with Miko Himesama [That I know Miko Himesama very well. She’s quite the tomboy] would you?”

The elderly man next to Miko Himesama stops her.

On the contrary to my expectations of Miko Himesama being a secluded Ojousama, it seems she’s quite the tomboyish child... Her appearances don’t match her personality.

“...Iya. Takumi-sama, please forgive us”

“No worries...”

“Right, right, I have not introduced you to Takumi-sama yet, did I? He is Gard, the Chief managing the mermaids living here”

“I’m the Chief, Gard. Thank you very much for today”

The man is apparently the Chief of mermaids. He’s very good-natured-ish looking old man.

“Chief, is it? I heard that the Miko Himesama is the Lord of Blue Waters Shrine, is Chief something different?”

“Yes. I am indeed the Lord of the Blue Waters Shrine, but Miko Hime the so-called honorary position. The person with the most affinity with the God takes the place generation after generation. There’s a different one for each clan”

Actually, there is no way to know the affinity with the God, so abilities, etc. are unrelated. Miko Hime is a symbolic existence, a woman elected by the clan to become a holy individual.

Miko Himesama mutters [I did not really want to do it because it is too stiff...] in a small voice.

If a tomboyish girl is her true nature, the current appearances of a graceful Miko Hime is an act.

She must have it tough.

“...Being Miko Himesama must be tough, huh?”

“Fufufu. That is right”

It seems she heard the words I unconsciously muttered.

Miko Himesama agrees with a laugh.

“Right, right. We have to present the reward to Takumi-sama”

“Ah, that! In that case, wouldn’t you teach us the way of using water magic?”

Talking about the reward, I asked about what was on my mind.

Right. I want to learn water magic.

Mermaids living underwater would know a thing or two about water magic, right?

“Water magic, is it? Certainly, most of the Mermaids can use it, but...”

“We possess the 【Water Magic】 skill, but I’m troubled because I can’t use it well. The children have never used magic before...”

In fact, when we moved through the sea, I tried using the water magic, but it didn’t go well.

I tried shooting the low level [Water Ball], but it had no power. *Besha*, just about a fistful of water spurted out.

Because I myself can’t use it, I am not able to teach it to Allen and Elena.

“If that is the case, there is no problem. I will introduce you to a user who excels at teaching! However, the reward is separate”

“No, just teaching us is enough”

Even though I solved their problem, I just put the ship into the [Infinite Storage].

I would be grateful for just being able to learn water magic.

“No, I request you to accept it. Although I said reward, it is something unnecessary for

us... Would you please look at it first?"

.....N? Unnecessary?

What does she mean?

Saying, please look at the goods first, Mirena-san guides us to the place where the reward is.



"This way, please"

"This is?"

The place I was guided to is a cave in the rock face in the rear of the Blue Waters Shrine. Inside the cave, there was a spacious room with a lot of things were piled up.

Seaweed in a shell?

Fish bones with some kind of stones?

There really was a lot of things. Moreover, a considerably large quantity of each.

【Bracka seaweed】

A medicinal plant inhabiting deep seas.

Because it has an effect of lowering temperature, it's used as a material for antipyretic and salves for burns treatment.

【Bone of Giant Shark】

Hard, but light bone.

Utilized as material for weapons.

After appraising it, every seaweed and shells were materials for medicine. The bones can be used for making weapons.

"Everything has quite a value, you know?"

And yet they say that everything in here is part of the reward.

“This~”

“Wha~t?”

“Eh? Pearl!? Huge!”

Allen and Elena brought a golf ball-sized pearl. Looking carefully, a great amount of various sized pearls were rolling on the ground beside the two.

Not only big ones but also normal sized pearls that could be used to make necklaces. And they are just *gorogoro* on the floor.

White and black, purple, pink, yellow... various colors.

This is my first time seeing so many pearls.

“To tell you the truth, this place is our garbage dump...”

Haa!? Garbage dump?

This all, are you saying this all is a garbage!?

“When we pick something that sunk around the Blue Waters Shrine or the ocean floor, we put it here”

“Everything!? I mean, this is a pearl, you know?”

“That’s a stone that comes from the edible shells, isn’t it? The big ones come from Big Shells, but... Either of them is not a magic stone, you know?”

“Pearl is a kind of a gem, you know?”

“Is that so? I like gems too, but I like the more sparkling and transparent ones better?”

“.....”

Ofu... these people recognize pearls that come out of shells as stones.

I see, I see now...

Are? To the people of Aetherdia... it’s a gem, right? Without a doubt.

“It’s as Retainer-sama said then, although it has no worth to us, it seems it’s attractive stone to humans”

That’s right. I’m really startled by your different sense of value.

“As you can see the place has become full... Although we think it’s rude to give something unnecessary to us as reward, we would be much grateful if you received it...”

“.....”

I have no words to say anymore.

Allen, Elena. Do you like that pearl? It seems we can take it, so I will.

CHAPTER 42

WATER MAGIC

In the end, I have decided to accept the various items in the cave that were presented to me as a reward.

Still, to consider those things a garbage...

I was in shock after looking at the [Infinite Storage] item list...

Tens kinds of seaweed and shells used as medicine materials. Even if the shell couldn't be used for medicine, it could be used as an ornament for accessories.

Fish bones, scales, and carapaces that could be processed into arms and tools. There were also some stone-like materials, but those are actually natural stones.

There were some scratches ones, but there was quite a lot of pearls~

Only a few percent of the garbage was [Unusable].

Despite receiving a significant amount of rewards, we would also receive magic guidance.

The mermaids took it as if we had disposed of their garbage, it seems they gladly accepted to teach us magic.

We have stayed a night at the Blue Waters Shrine that day, and it has been decided that we will get instructed in the water magic tomorrow.

Tomorrow.

We have come offshore to receive the instructions.

Because we have a lot of magical powers, after all. We have decided to receive the instructions far away from the Blue Waters Shrine in case we make a mistake.

And surprisingly, the one who is going to instruct us is the Chief of Mermaids, Gard-san himself! Gard-san came personally.

Gard-san apparently a person who teaches many mermaid children and it seems that even Miko Himesama learned magic under him.

An ideal person to instruct us.

Gard-san starts teaching us immediately once we got above the surface.

“First of all, there are two ways to exercise magic. That is to manipulate and produce. I have heard that Takumi-sama is able to use wind magic. When you are using magic on the surface, that is manipulating. Earth magic is the same. But, water magic and fire magic have to be produced first. Let’s assume first that you are using water magic in a waterless location”

I received guidance first, but... I see~

So it’s because I tried to use water magic the same way I use wind magic. The power was low because of that.

“Therefore, if you don’t produce it first, Takumi-sama will end up using water magic with the wind magic method”

A precise identification of the problem.

I explained my circumstances to Gard-san yesterday so he could estimate why I am not able to use it.

“Conversely, trying to use wind magic underwater would not work well, would it?”

“Yes, that’s right”

It became really simple after hearing the reason.

Well, right. I’m using wind magic in places where the wind drifts and water magic in places with no water. The amount of necessary magical power is different.

When I used water magic the last time, a fist-sized water *besha*... only a little came out.

“[Water Pillar]”

I try to cast a spell as a test and a pillar of water shoots out of the sea.

Un, it’s possible to use water magic in places with water just like the wind magic.

“Magnificent. If Takumi-sama keeps in mind the producing step while on the surface,

you shouldn't have any problems with water magic"

"Yes, let's see. Since I have grasped the trick, I will give it a try on the ground later"

Because there is water nearby.

Once we return to the ground, let's find a waterless place and practice.

Since my problem was settled, it's Allen's and Elena's turn next.

"I have heard that Allen-sama and Elena-sama haven't used magic yet. Therefore, I have decided to tell them about the flow of magical power first"

"By all means. Allen, Elena, come here"

"I will borrow your hands. I will pour my magical power now"

Gard-san takes Allen's and Elena's hands and sends in his magical power.

I see. You can pour your magical power into your partner to let him become aware of magical power...

"Can you understand it?"

" "Warm~?" "

"It seems to be all right, then? That is magical power"

Magical power is warm.

Allen and Elena immediately perceived the magical power.

" "Magical power~?" "

"Yes, that's right. That is the source of magic. There is also magical power within yourselves. Are you able to perceive that?"

" "U~n?" "

"Allen, Elena. Try searching for the warm inside your bodies"

" "Un" "

Allen and Elena close their eyes and begin searching for the magical power.

Because magical power circulates through the whole body just like blood, so it's essential to feel the flow.

I also stealthily feel for the magical power circulation.

...Because magic was inserted in my body, the feeling of magical power is... there's practically nothing.

When I searched for it, I was unexpectedly able to feel it.

So this is magical power... Un, it's okay. I'm glad I am able to perceive it.

“Warm thing”

“Found~”

It seems that Allen and Elena too were able to perceive magical power immediately.

“Looks like you have perceived it— This will be a practice to control the magical power flow from now on. If the magical power is low, water won't take shape, and on the contrary, if the amount of magical power is too high, the water burst out. Well then, Allen-sama, Elena-sama. Shall we give it a try?”

When Gard-san pours magical power into the ocean water he has scooped with his both hands, the water starts changing a shape little by little. This is apparently a practice in order to find the necessary amount of magical power to use.

Right. When using magic, using just the right amount of magical power is essential.

If you don't, you will end up like me when I fought the Evil Viper...

“ “Done~” “

“Allen, Elena. You are amazing for being able to do it on your first try~”

“ “Ehehe~” “

When Allen and Elena began to pour magical power in the seawater scooped by their both hands, a round water ball appeared immediately on their hands.

Because they raised the balls as to show me their achievement, I stroke their heads while praising them.

“As expected~ It’s quite difficult to get the hang of it, but being able to do it right away...”

“Does it usually take time?”

“Even the most able children in the village take roughly half a day to produce a precise rounded shape. It can take even several days for unskilled children”

Un, hearing that it becomes clear that Allen and Elena are geniuses.

My kids are so amazing~

“Then, let’s attempt casting [Water Ball] next. It would be better for Takumi-sama to show an example. May I ask you to target that rock?”

“Understood... [Water Ball]”

The practical use of magical power seems to be next.

Although an example, [Can I do it?] flashed through my mind for a moment, I’m glad I was able to do it...

Even if I could predict that I would be able to do it, I was worried about what to do if I failed.

“ “[Wat~er Ba~ll]” “

Seeing me, Allen and Elena immediately follow and cast [Water Ball] too. A grand success, two water balls the size of a tennis ball fly towards the rock.

“ “Done~” “

“Amazing, amazing! You two are so good~”

“So easily...”

In the end, all basics were taught in a few hours.

Because they were able to learn magic so quickly, Gard-san had a bitter smile. Normally, you wouldn't be able to master magic in a day after all.

Well~ but it's Allen and Elena after all. That must be it.

Gard-san returned to the Blue Water Shrine, and we have decided to practice magic for a little bit more. See, getting used to magic is important.

I also wanted to teach Allen and Elena some beginners magic.

Perhaps [Water Arrow] or [Water Wall]?

I won't teach them any big moves! It would be troublesome if they used it in a public. That is my role!

I also must tell them not to use it without permission. If I don't, they might see someone use magic and start using it themselves.

“ “!!!!” “

“What? What is wrong?”

While thinking about magic, Allen and Elena suddenly clung up to me.

Since I wasn't paying attention to the surroundings, I wanted to use 【Detection】 to figure out what's going on, but before I could do that, the sea started shaking.

“Uwa!!”

And then, something emerged from the sea while splashing water around.

I embrace Allen and Elena tightly, gulp while watching the high waves and appraise without delay.

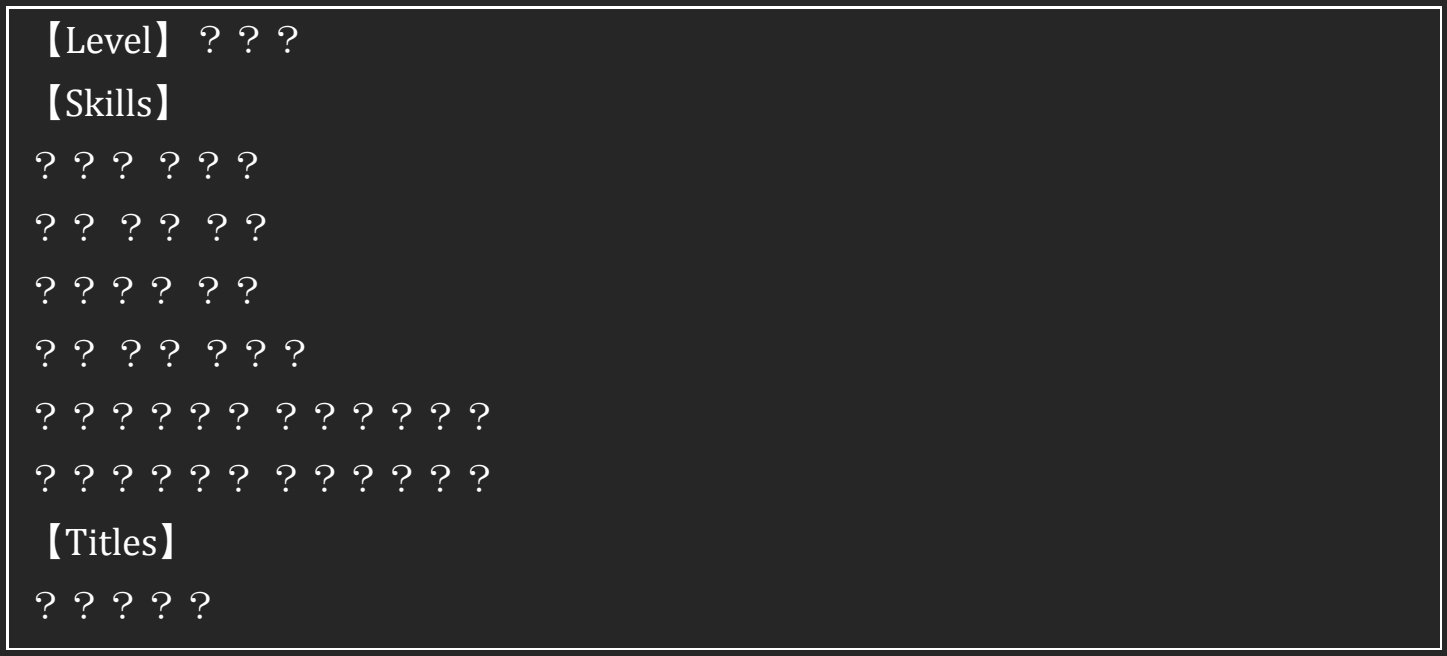
Status

【Name】

【Race】 Leviathan

【Occupation】

【Age】 ? ? ?



Haa!? Leviathan!?

Moreover, the contents of its status are invisible.

CHAPTER 43

LEVIATHAN

What appeared looks like a multi-floor building or a tower... No, is Leviathan a dragon? —Ha, just by being there, I feel its overpowering intimidation. It's clearly a superior existence.

...Will it attack... us?

As expected, I wouldn't want to get attacked by an S-rank monster.

Allen and Elena are not preparing to fight, so it's probably not hostile.

However, the two are clinging to me as if they have understood something.

[Fumu. I thought I sensed a different presence, so it was the Wind God-sama's retainer...]

"Wha!?"

I, it spoke!?

Moreover, it felt like it was talking directly in my head, rather than hearing with my ears.

Also, how did I get exposed!?

[What are you surprised about? I can use appraisal. You can use it too, right?]

"Iya... I certainly can, but most of it wasn't visible"

I see. This Leviathan has an appraisal... so it even took a look at my status.

[Fumu. How about now? Try looking one more time]

As told, I use appraisal again.

Status

【Name】

【Race】 Leviathan [Water God's retainer]

【Occupation】

【Age】 863

【Level】 123

【Skills】

Water Magic? ???

Swimming ?? Appraisal

Presence Detection ??

God? Telepathy ???

Physical Attack??? Magic?? Shock Resistance

Uncommon Body?? Mental Status Resistance

Conqueror of the seas

Are? There are some things here and there that I can't see, but I can see a lot more than a little while ago...

First, what is this about the Water God's retainer? Syl~ Haven't you told me that there are no other retainers on the surface beside me~

Over 800 years old... astonishing...

I think it's a male if I go by the sound of its voice, but I should not be assuming that.

And above all, the level! Its level has three digits!

The strongest individuals among humans should be around 50~60 level. And yet, the Leviathan is level 123... Double the level.

And the conversation can be held thanks to the 【Telepathy】 skill?

How convenient. If I had this, I could probably talk to Joule and others.

...Conqueror of the seas. There's nothing I can say about that...

The hell is this status... it's dangerous.

[How is it?]

"...It's not all, but I can see it now. But, how?"

[That's because I loosened the magical power coat my body was wrapped in]

“Magical power coat?”

[Umu. Living creatures unconsciously cover their bodies in magical power. They do it, no matter how weak they are. And the coat becomes thicker with the amount of magical power one possesses. My magical power is larger than yours. Therefore, you couldn't see. Then, I intentionally weakened the magical power coat. That's why you were able to appraise me this time]

I see... Even if my magical power is high, the difference in levels will only add to the difference between our magical powers.

Therefore, I couldn't see it.

That means, even if a person has 【Appraisal】 skill, I won't have to worry that much about mine and the children's status being exposed?

Even the strong ones should have less magical power than us. If that's the case, we have to be careful of the races with great magical power like elves and demons.

Well, no matter in which race, 【Appraisal】 skill is rare, and people who possess them are scarce, so I don't have to be that careful, though. We just bumped into Leviathan this time...

[Has your pondering finished?]

“Ah, yes! So, that... you¹? are also a retainer?”

I tried to address it, but I remembered that this Leviathan does not have a name.

I was worried for a moment, but 'you' should be safe, right?

[Yes, are you unsure about how to address me? I do not have a name after all. You may call me as you want. Fumu... I won't mind letting you name me]

No, no. I wasn't thinking for so long about how to call you, but about magical power and 【Appraisal】 .

Why it became a talk about naming!?

This, for now..... let's ignore it?

“...I didn’t know there was a retainer on the surface”

[There are not many, but there are. However, all of us, including myself, spend time by ourselves in remote areas]

Ah, there are more retainers.

[Anyway, so the Water God-sama’s children are the children from that time]

“You know of these children? They are Water God-sama’s children as expected...”

As I have expected, Allen and Elena are the Water God-sama’s children.

The two’s secret identities were revealed just like that.

[Mu? You didn’t know?]

“I have somehow expected it, but I’m the Wind God-sama’s person, so I wasn’t told in detail. It concerned a stipulation between the gods or something”

[Ah, it would be like that at that person’s place]

“You know about it?”

[I’m sure you could see from my status, but I’m someone who is connected to the Water God-sama. I get information. Besides, the children were born... about a year ago? I was asked to protect the children]

No... it has been five years since Allen and Elena were born... would it be better to not tsukkomi here?

Once you live for 800 years, your sense of time may become rough...

“...They weren’t protected, though”

[Fumu. It’s due to my refusal]

“Eh!?”

[Entering the country to protect the children would cause ruckuss, after all]

Ah, certainly.

Leaving aside if Leviathan were alright after leaving the sea, it would get noisy if it appeared on the land...

[Even if I safely protected them, I wouldn't be able to raise human children. The children's state wouldn't change by much even if I protected them. Therefore, I chose the option which would cause less damage]

As a matter of fact, I can agree.

The town would get destroyed if he decided to protect them... just imagining it is scary. Besides, this Leviathan certainly wouldn't be able to raise the two who were infants at that time. It would crush them if it made a mistake in handling.

[It must be a fate for us to meet here. I shall lend you my power when you are in trouble]

"Are? I thought that retainers are not allowed to help?"

Syl couldn't lend a hand, and the Water God-sama's retainers were the same.

[That's the story in that person's place. I'm originally from the surface. There are no restrictions for retainers who come from the surface]

"Was it like that..."

I had confirmed it when I decided to look after Allen and Elena, but I have thought to be out of the condition because I come from a different world.

But, it seems like that wasn't the case.

The people at the Holy Sanctuary apparently have different conditions than on those on the surface...

Then, if Leviathan was no good, he surely asked other retainers to take care of Allen and Elena... he did not... definitely.

Come to think of it, I was told that they all live in remote places...

Are perhaps other retainers on the surface similar to Leviathan?

Ah~... it would be impossible then.

[Now then, have you decided on my name? That will become our provisional contract]

“Eh? Na, name? Contract?”

Name... it was serious about it?

[Umu. Not a complete master and servant contract, but connected by fate contract. It will be established when you name me. Thus, you will be able to summon me. Well, it depends on my consent, though]

Not like Joule, Feat, and Vol who I can summon whatever they like it or not, but a consent of the partner's will is necessary.

Even if it's like that, Leviathan will become an enormous ally. I could win even against a country.

I don't have any plans on fighting them, though.

The other party proposed it, so there's no problem if I accept?

It's well-informed, so I feel he could become a reliable retainer senpai.

Then, a name. Let's see...

“I will ask just in case, but you are a male, right?”

[N? I have no gender. But, if I had to choose then I would choose male]

“Then, how about Kaiser?”

[Umu, good. My name is Kaiser]

The moment he recited the name, a magic circle appeared on the sea's surface around Kaiser.

[It was safely established. From now on, I'm Kaiser. Call me like that]

I have formed a provisional contract with a Leviathan——Kaiser.

CHAPTER 44

ADVISOR INAUGURATION

“My best regards from now on, Kaiser”

[Umu]

With this, Kaiser has more or less become my Contracted Beast. Nevertheless, I really didn't expect something like this would happen while coming to the sea.

The feeling of Allen and Elena withering disappeared all too soon. They are now watching Kaiser with great interest.

[At any rate, they are really attached to you. You seem like a real parent]

Kaiser narrowed his eyes and looked at Allen and Elena who are clinging to me.

I can't tell the difference in the Leviathan's expression, but Kaiser's gentle feeling has somehow been transmitted.

“That's so. They have recognized me as an existence similar to an older brother”

If we seem like a real family, that makes me glad.

When I stroke Allen's and Elena's heads, the two draw closer.

[Fumu~ Children, come with me]

“Eh?”

Oi, Kaiser? What are you saying all of sudden!?

Kaiser said something ridiculous while facing Allen and Elena.

[If they grew up this much, I won't have any problems. I will prepare a place they can live safely. I can definitely protect you children better, you know?]

“ “With Onii~chan” “

[It's not like you can't meet ever again, you know?]

“ “No” “

[You like your brother so much that you don't want to leave his side?]

“ “Un!” “

I was surprised at Kaiser's crazy question, but Allen and Elena choose to stay with me without hesitation.

I understand that Allen and Elena are attached to me, but being chosen like this makes me really happy, after all.

[Umu, umu. It seems you have built a good relationship]

“.....”

...It seems that Kaiser didn't want to take them, but was just confirming Allen's and Elena's feelings since the beginning.

[I can't advise you on parenting, but I advise you about anything else. It has not been too long since Takumi came to this world, right? Although I'm distant to the way of humans, but I have lived for a long time, after all]

“Eh! Th, this world!?”

[Although seldom, there are times where people from other worlds slip into ours. There are also existences that have memories from their previous life. Encountering a God's retainer is much more unusual]

“Ah...”

Which reminds me, Kaiser has 【Appraisal】 skill. He must have seen both my status and my titles.

...He accepted that I'm from a different world without being surprised. Judging by his words, he might have already met someone who came from a different world, perhaps even met a reincarnated person.

Oh, right... there's a chance that I will come across people from a different world from

now on. I may be slightly looking forward to that.

[If you have something to ask, just ask with 【Telepathy】 . If it's you, Takumi, we will be able to connect even if we are far apart]

Nn? Telepathy?

“My 【Telepathy】 will... connect?”

[Mu? You have learned it while talking with me, you know? Did you not notice?]

“Eh!?”

Status

【Name】 Takumi Kayano

【Race】 Human? [Wind God's retainer]

【Occupation】 Magician

【Age】 20

【Level】 27

【Skills】

Light Magic 66 | Dark Magic 65

Wind Magic 170 | Water Magic 51

Space Magic 118 | Life Magic 128

Swordsmanship 54 | Throwing 52

Appraisal 209 | Dismantling 119

Familiars 35 | Training 24

Swimming 8

Cooking 126 | Sewing 23

Washing 12 | Cleaning 31

Crafting 39 | Gathering 65

Arithmetics 108 | Reading 125

Concealment 41 | Detection 37

Oracle 12 | Telepathy 5

Abnormal Status Resistance 300 | Mental Status Resistance 300

Physical Attack Resistance 300 | Magic Attack Resistance 300

【Titles】

Transmigrated From a Different World
Blessed by the God of Creation, Malianor
Friend of Wind God Sylphreel
Savior
Conqueror of Low-Grade Dungeon
Monster Contractor
A-Rank Adventurer
Receiver of the Water Dragon King's Divine Protection

【Contracted Beasts】

Fenrir (Joule)
Thunderhawk (Bolt)
Celestial Tiger (Feat)
Leviathan (Kaiser)(Provisional)

Ah, it's true.

When I confirm my status in a hurry, a new skill 【Telepathy】 appeared. Also, 【Swimming】 is there too.

I also have new titles.

【A-Rank Adventurer】 obtained of course when I become A-Rank adventurer.

【Receiver of the Water Dragon King's Divine Protection】 is related to Kaiser, right?

I haven't looked at other people's statuses, but the number of titles is absolutely a lot... this is my eight title. Well, they are all not normal, though...

Among the people I have seen until now, was four titles the most?

There are various titles, and there are some which affect abilities. They grant abilities, make skill acquisition easier, and make it easier to obtain proficiency.

I have not grasped clearly yet what the effects of my titles are. It's by having 【Different world~】 title, I am able to understand Aetherdia's language.

And if there are titles that act as a plus, there are also titles that act as a minus.

I have not met a criminal yet, but criminals apparently have a title with minus correction.

As I have had until now, I would like to avoid those people.

However... it wouldn't be strange for Allen and Elena to receive Kaiser's protection, but it's only me? Why?

"Kaiser's divine protection appeared in my status, but?"

[Umu, that's right]

"Why not Allen and Elena?"

[Because my contract is with you, Takumi]

"The contract itself is the divine protection, is it? You can't normally give divine protection?"

A contract, huh...

It can't be helped then, but I wish Kaiser could grant divine protection even without a contract.

[No, I can. But, I won't give these children divine protection. As people from the same water system and children of God, they are existences way above mine. The inferior being can't give protection to the superior one. Takumi is the wind's person, but also a retainer like me. Although we are equal, you are simultaneously my junior. Therefore, the divine protection could be given]

"I see~"

The hierarchy, huh...

Indeed, the superior beings give divine protections to the inferior ones. It can't be helped that Allen and Elena can't receive a divine protection then.

[Also Takumi, hold onto this]

Kaiser handed me a scale he peeled off of his own body.

The scale is translucent and shining in a blue color.

[That is filled with my magical power. I will be able to grasp your location if you hold onto it]

So it's possible to track your own magical power, I see~ Does it work with perception or detection?

Is it used the same way, but instead of reacting to many unspecified magical powers, it reacts to a specific one?

Is it similar to a tracing ring? The magic stone on the ring perceives the magical power and indicates the specific place.

In that case, is it possible to substitute the magic stone with something else? Let's try it next time.

"Thank you very much. Umm... this won't work unless I carry it, right?"

Although a scale, Kaiser's scale is as large as my face. Moreover, it's also very thick. It would be slightly unreasonable to carry this around all the time.

[I won't be able to find you if it's in a place that obstructs magical power. I won't mind if you fragment it to the size of your toes. Just carry it]

"I understand"

A place that doesn't obstruct magical power...

I thought about putting it in the [Infinite Storage] at first, but that place is not good. The magic bag is equally bad.

If so, I must make something that will allow me to carry the scale around. However, would this crack while processing?

When I flick the scale with my finger as a test, hardness transmits. It's a scale of the strongest sea monster, it wouldn't break that easily...

"U~n..."

[What is it?]

"The scale is hard, I was wondering if I can break it..."

[I don't mind if you break it, but it would be troublesome if it sunk. Try it after going up on the land. You should be able to break it without problems]

Let's try it when we return to the land. Kaiser gave his guarantee, so it's should be alright.

[It's time for me to return. Children, if something happens, you should immediately depend on your older brother]

“ “Un” “

[Do not hesitate to contact me, Takumi. Then, in good health]

“Yes. Thank you very much”

“ “Bye by~e” “

Kaiser has returned to the sea.

I have obtained a reliable advisor, but I got tired a lot. Let's end the water magic practice today and return to the Blue Waters Shrine.

IDLE TALK 5

ONII~CHAN

Elena is Elena.

Important, name, Oniichan gave.

Elena, has Onii~chan.

Since born, always together with Allen.

Allen is Onii~chan too, but to Elena, Onii~chan is, Takumi Onii~chan.

Onii~chan is, very kind to, Allen and Elena.

Delicious meals, he lets us eat, together with us, he sleeps.

Good girl, good girl, always he pats me.

Being patted, Elena is happy.

Again and again, it makes Elena warm.

Elena, loves, Onii~chan.

Allen is the same.

We love, Onii~chan.



When monster? we defeat, Onii~chan praises us.

He worries, if we hurt.

That makes Elena happy.

More, Elena wants to be praised.

I want him to see.

Therefore, will work hard!

When medicinal plant? we find, Onii~chan is happy.

Amazing, he says with a smile.

Many plants there are, Elena will memorize a lot.

A lot, we will gather.

In order, to make Onii~chan smile.



The meal, Onii~chan makes, yummy is, you know?

Today's dinner too, was delish.

Furench Tosto? he said.

The thing, honey, sweet a lot.

Deli~sh.

The honey we get, when we defeat, Bee-san.

“ “Ho~ney, ho~ney, ho~ney, ho~ney” “

Ya~y.

Bee-san, a lots~

Bee-san, in the air flies, a little quick it is.

But, is al~right.

If with Allen, easy, easy.

“ “Honey, there is~” “

Yatta~

Honey, was there.

With this, Furench Tosto again, Onii~chan will make.



A big, doggy, came to Onii~chan.

“Hand”

[Wafu]

Doggy is, with Onii~chan, playing~

How nice~

“.....Yosh, yo~sh?”

Uu~ Getting patted~

Doggy, no fair~

Onii~chan, Elena too~

“What’s the matter?”

“ “ ” “

“ Hand?”

“ “Wan!” “

“~~~!!”

Fufufu.

Imitated, doggy, patted by Onii~chan I got.

Oh~ Doggy too, loves Onii~chan, I see.

Same as Elena.

Doggy is, Joule.

Joule too, named by Onii~chan got.

Same as Allen and Elena.

Joule, best regards.



Again, friends increased.

Feat, and, Bolt.

Everyone, loves Onii~chan.

For Onii~chan, let's do our best together, okay?



Onii~chan, amazing is.

That Onii~chan is strong, Elena knows.

Usually, he lets Allen and Elena do it, but Onii~chan increee~dibly strong is!

The adults around, surprised are.

Onii~chan, strong is, you know!

Amazing right~♪

“Allen, Elena. I will reduce the numbers first by bit, will you help me with clean up?”

“ “Un!” “

“Thank you”

“ “Ye~s” “

By Onii~chan, asked to help, we were.

Happy.

Onii~chan, on Allen and Elena, depended.

Elena, work hard will!



Ah, that person...

The person, who had Allen and Elena put, into a dark place, before Onii~chan we met.

That person, not like.
Don't want to return.
Onii~chan, don't want~

“ “Onii~chan...” “

“Everything's all right. I will be with you as long as Allen and Elena want to stay by my side”

“ “Un...” “

Don't want to separate.
Forever, with Onii~chan, want to be.



To sea? of nearby town we go, Onii~chan said.
Together with Joule, Feat, and Bolt.

With everyone, competition!
Elena, will not lose.
Get patted by Onii~chan Elena will~
Ah, Joule and Feat, used magic.
Uu~
If from distance, attack, Allen and Elena, lose will.
Can Elena, magic too?
If Elena magic, will Onii~chan, be happy?
Elena will for Onii~chan, do her best!
Therefore, together with Elena stay, okay?

Idle Talk 6

Miko Hime

I'm Sarasa.

A mermaid in the position of Miho Hime, The Lord of the Blue Waters Shrine.

I was ten when I became Miko Hime. The former Miko Hime Baba-sama passed away, and in the next Miko Hime selection, the one chosen was me for some reason.

My parents were overjoyed, but I really didn't want to be Miko Hime, to be honest. I mean, Miko Hime has to live quietly in the isolated Blue Waters Shrine!

The distance between Miko Hime and other mermaids is large, she has to be treated as a holy existence.

People Miko Hime has contact with is also chosen, and it's possible to talk only with a few people... Something so stiffening, gimme a break!

Because Miko Hime hadn't received an oracle from the God in several hundred years, a position like that is not necessary anymore.

In fact, who knows who is suitable for the position of Miko Hime... I do not.

I love swimming in the sea, it was within the barrier, but I swam every day. I won't be able to endure not being able to do that anymore!

I will swim outside the barrier once I become a bit bigger! Even though I was looking forward to it...

Why? Why does it have to be me?

Aren't there many people who want to become Miko Hime! Rather than me, choose someone who wants to do it...

As expected, I couldn't endure it anymore and tried to slip out of the Blue Waters Shrine, but the Chief Gard always discovers me and puts me back into my room.

Several years passed and I have suddenly received an oracle.

(Sarasa? Are you listening?)

“Ah, you are...”

(I am a retainer serving the Water God-sama)

Suddenly, a voice resounded in my head... this is!

I tremble in fear.

Because I felt an exceeding holy presence that I have never felt before. An existence close to God. I don't know why, but I clearly understood that.

“W, water... Re, retainer-sama... pl, please order me...!”

(Calm down, Sarasa)

“...Pl, please for... give me...”

My voice trembles. Let alone voice, my whole body trembles.

Although not Water God-sama, Water Retainer-sama is an incredibly noble existence. Shrinking back in fear is natural.

Ah... I am... calm...

(Then, I will state my business)

Retainer-sama who gave me time to calm down stated her business at once.

It was about the crisis the mermaids living in the Blue Waters Shrine are facing right now.

At present, there is a fear that a coral which is critical to mermaids will be destroyed. Because losing of the coral is a matter of life and death to the mermaids, it's a serious issue.

Why such thing is happening, is because a large boat has sunk and sealed the entrance to the cave where it coral is being cultivated. With that entrance sealed, it's not possible to enter the cave and take care of the coral. If we can't take care of it, the coral will wither.

It seems the ship is too big, not even the whole tribe was able to move it.

We are finished... I thought at that time.

It appears that Retainer-sama's Oracle is in regards of that.

(A gentleman called Takumi-san will arrive at the sea tomorrow. That person will definitely solve the problem you are facing. Please, go to receive him)

"Takumi-sama, is it? That person, what kind of person is he?"

(He is a human. Very gentle, kindhearted person. I can not tell you in detail, but he is benefactor of us, the Water people)

What a thing! A person that even Water Retainer-sama speaks of so highly will come to our Blue Waters Shrine!

We have to be careful not to displease him!

(It is all right, Sarasa. Takumi-san will not get angry about small mistakes. Rather, you might harm his mood by treating him too grandiosely)

"W, what should we..."

(Moderately, is the way to go)

Retainer-sama instructed me how to treat Takumi-sama properly. I carefully listened to every single word not to miss anything.

Among Retainer-sama's words, there was something that my ears couldn't believe.

It's garbage, you know!? Retainer-sama! Are you telling me to give garbage to Takumi-sama!?

Won't he get displeased if he gets to know about it!? Is that really okay!?

...However, since Retainer-sama said it would be alright, I have no choice, but to prepare myself to take such action.

After the brief instructionn, Retainer-sama's Oracle was cut off.

I felt a bit lonely, but now is not the time for that.

"Gard! Gard!! Gard, it's serious!!"

In order to prepare as soon as possible, I summon Gard with a loud voice.
It's improper, and I may get scolded, but that doesn't matter.

"Miko Himesama, why are you shouting so loudly? Did something happen?"
"It's an Oracle! We have been given an Oracle!!"

When I say so, Gard's eyes open wide and his body froze on the spot.
Haa~ Such reaction is unusual for Gard... tte, it's not the time to say something like that.

"Gard, are you listening? Tomorrow, Takumi-sama will arrive at the beach and he will do something about that troublesome ship!"
"Is that true!?"

Ah, he revived.

Gard who recovered from the being frozen, enthusiastically leans forward and listens.

"It's true. There's no doubt since Water Retainer-sama said so. Therefore, we have to send someone to receive him! Ah! Confidentially! To not cause trouble for Takumi-sama, we have to hold things down to minimum without announcing the oracle"
"In that case, let's use Mirena. She's Miko Himesama's attendant and my grandchild. She is educated to not reveal secrets"
"Right, Mirena would be good. Call her immediately please"

Gard hurriedly leaves the room.

Gard who usually conducts himself quietly is... Gard is excited too, huh. Somehow, watching Gard like that makes me calm...
Un, I will be able to calm down.

When Gard comes back with Mirena, we three carefully make the arrangements.
Because Takumi-sama is a human, a mermaid bracelet magic tool will be necessary. I give Mirena instructions to take more than one bracelet as it seems Takumi-sama has

a company and leave the preparations of small things to Gard.

By the way, both Gard and Mirena were shocked when I told them about the reward. They will have such reaction after all... is it really okay?

...No! I should not doubt Water Retainer-sama's words. I'm sure it's okay!

Thus, we prepared to receive Takumi-sama in a hurry.

It was a Retainer-sama, but it has been several hundred years since the last Oracle. I was really surprised and happy that such spectacular event has happened while I served as Miko Hime.

My negative feelings about being Miko Hime had disappeared before I knew, and I felt proud of myself.

It's not too late, is it? I will show you that I can become a splendid Miko Hime!

—I made up my mind, however...

The things have progressed good for the most part, I was a little too much excited when I met Takumi-sama and caused him trouble.

...I'm really sorry. I'm reflecting.

From now on! I will become a splendid Miko Hime from now on!

CHAPTER 45

NEW DUNGEON

After parting ways with Kaiser, we have returned to the Blue Waters Shrine.
And in the next morning.

“You are already leaving? Please stay a little longer. We haven’t shown our hospitality yet”

“No, no. We have already received enough”

“Because Takumi-sama must have some plans, it would be rude of us to try to make him stay forcibly. Please come again, by all means”

“Yes. We will visit again”

“It is a promise”

I finish our farewells with Miko Himesama, Gard-san, and Mirena-san whom I am indebted and decided to promise to visit again.



“Allen, Elena~ You must not touch that”

“ “Ye~s” “

While carefreely swimming to the land, a flashy red starfish with purple polka dots—Acid Starfish appeared.

It has a paralysis poison.

If touched directly, your whole body would get paralyzed, but you wouldn’t die. If kicked while wearing leather shoes, there is no problem at all. However as expected, am I being too overprotective by not wanting them even to approach it?

Dealing with it underwater with wind and water magic would be too troublesome, so I retrieve the Water Katana from the [Inifnite Storage] and cut directly at the Starfish.

Because it's an E-Rank monster, I finish it with one slash.

When mixing the Acid Starfish's paralytic poison with medicinal plants, it can be used as anesthetics. Rather, it's a monster whose materials are not worth the time.

However, it would be difficult to extract the poison here, so I just store it whole into the [Infinite Storage].

"Ah, Crab-san~"

"Crab-san, defeat~"

A Sand Crab appeared this time. Three at once. Allen and Elena happily rush towards the crabs to defeat them.

I thought of helping since there are three crabs, but two of them were instantly defeated with one blow. It appears that helping is not necessary at all.

"..... Are?"

While coming out on the seashore, I noticed a certain reef. That is certainly... looks familiar...

If it looks familiar, it means that it's most likely from the implanted knowledge. When I look for that implanted memory, I immediately remember.

Ah, right! A dungeon!

That reef is the entrance to a dungeon.

The 53rd "Dungeon of Ripples." An Intermediate Class Water Dungeon.

I decided to stop by since we have a precious dungeon and we change course towards the reef.

There's entrance to the dungeon in the sea.

When we pass through the entrance, there was a waterway that lasted approximately 50m. We will be fine because of the mermaid bracelets we have received, but people who don't have them would have to dive all the way?

I don't have any experience in diving, so I wouldn't really know, but I have doubts about holding breath for such distance. Tens of seconds while swimming at full speed? There are people who can hold their breath for several minutes, so it's not completely impossible, huh...

The waterway went down a little, and there was a dead end at the end. There's a light overhead. It appears we can get out from up there.

When I cautiously look around from the sea surface, there was a hall-like place.

This seems to be the start point of the dungeon. I can see a transfer device in the center of the hall.

First of all, I lift up Allen and Elena to the edge of the hall and then I climb out of the water myself.

And then, when I check my guild card, [53rd Dungeon "Sazami" 0/30 floor] has been recorded.

There's entrance in the inner part of the hall. Because there doesn't seem to be any other places we may be able to enter, that must be the entrance to the first floor.

"Now then, what should we do?"

I had impulsively entered a dungeon, but I have returned from the sea I have just gotten used to. Actually, I was planning to go to the town of Bailey and rest for a while.

" "Let's go~!" "

It seems that Allen and Elena are already full of intentions to go.

Although they don't show fatigue, they are still five years old children. Because they don't show fatigue, I want to take regular breaks, but...

" "Is ok~ay" "

""

Recently, I have a feeling that Allen and Elena are able to read my thoughts.

...My thoughts are not reflected on my face, are they?

It makes me worried a little.

“N~ Then, shall we go up to the tenth floor? Once we get there, let’s go take a break in the town”

“ “Un!” “

The Dungeon of Ripples altogether has 30 floors. It’s an Intermediate Class dungeon.

In the case of an Intermediate Class dungeon, there are transfer devices every ten floors. Using the transfer device, it’s possible to resume the dungeon capture from the tenth floor next time. With that, we won’t waste time even if we take a break.

The arrangements are made so let’s begin the dungeon capture without reservation.

But, before that——

“It’s almost noon so let’s go after having a meal”

“ “Un! Meal~!” “

“Is there anything you’d like to eat?”

“ “N~...” “

N~ As for me, I would like to eat something warm.

We have been in the care of the Blue Waters Shirine——The Mermaids’ main meals are raw fish and shellfish sashimi, vegetables and seaweed salads that were cultivated in the Blue Waters Shrine.

Everything was very delicious, but because they are basically a race that doesn’t use fire, there were no warm dishes.

“ “Furech Tosto!” “

While remembering the meals of the Blue Waters Shrine, Allen and Elena has apparently decided. Their request is a sweet French Toast with plentiful of honey.

They didn’t request a lot of honey themselves, but “French Toast = plentiful of honey”

is fixed for the twins.

“Let’s see... let’s make a French Toast with a warm soup then?”

“ “Un” “

“Then, will you help me with the making of the French Toast?”

“ “Will help~” “

When I put eggs and sugar into a bowl, Allen presses down the bowl with his both hands as I was used to, and Elena began mixing the egg.

Because the French Toast is Allen’s and Elena’s most favorite dish, I have made it many times and had the two help me each time.

When the egg scrambled, I put milk in the bowl. This time, Elena pressed down on the bowl, and Allen starts mixing.

“ “Done~” “

“Thank you”

It seems they have already completely mastered the egg mixing for the French Toast.

I thoroughly soak bread in the egg mixture the two children made, melt butter in the frying pan and start cooking. Once done, I place the toasts on a plate and pour honey over it.

For the soup, let’s have the pre-made vegetable consommé soup. Pour it in the cups, and.

Yosh! It’s completed.

“It’s done~”

“ “Ye~s” “

“Then, itadakimasu”

“ “Itadakima~shu” “

CHAPTER 46

DUNGEON OF RIPPLES • CAPTURE

After finishing our lunch, we immediately start with the capture of the first floor.

“[Light]”

When I turn on the light and peek inside the entrance, there was a culvert-like place. A waterway with flowing water in the center. And a pathway people can walk on both of its sides.

Because it's a single, straight path we don't hesitate to advance. I was just concerned on which side of the waterway to walk, but because it was a jumpable distance between both sides, I have decided to walk on the left side for now.

With nothing happening for a while, the waterway split in the shape of T.

“Which way shall we go?”

“ “There~” “

“Yosh, left it is”

Allen and Elena pointed to the left simultaneously.

When I inquire which way to go just like I did during the previous dungeon capture, the two point without hesitation.

Left means that we don't have to jump across the waterway.

As we advance, an obviously poisonous purple frogs with yellow dots jumps out from the water.

E-Rank monster, Poison Frog.

“Allen, Elena. Because this fellow has poison, use magic. I leave the one in front of you in your care. — [Air Shot]”

To make it easier for Allen and Elena to aim, I clean up all Poison Frogs except the one in front of them with a wind bullet.

“ “Ye~s— [Wat~er Ba~ll]” “

They have practiced magic on rocks. Therefore, it's Allen's and Elena's first time shooting a moving target.

Allen and Elena aimed their water balls straight ahead and shot at the Poison Frogs. However, because of a slight movement of the Poison Frog, the water balls missed. Was it truly accidental that the water balls the two shot landed at the same place?

“ “Muu~” “

Allen and Elena make slightly frustrated expressions.

I know I shouldn't laugh in this situation, but because the two's expression was so adorable I broke into a smile.

“*Cough...* Allen, Elena. Try aiming one more time. You can do it”

“ “Un. — [Wat~er Ba~ll]” “

This time, the two's water balls hit the Poison Frog.

“ “It hit~!” “

“Good, good~ Well done”

A bottle filled with Poison Frog's poison appeared at the place of the Poison Frog. Allen and Elena swiftly pick it up and jump at me.

Seriously cute~

“Shall we practice magic like this for a little more?”

“ “Un!” “

When I ask while stroking the two's heads, they cheerfully answer.

After that, we smoothly advanced, and when a monster appeared, Allen and Elena defeated it with magic.

What appeared next were slimes. Fruit jelly made with the slime jelly it drops is quite delicious. Because I have a certain feeling that slime jelly can be used for something else besides fruit jelly, we assertively defeat it and collect the drops.

Which reminds me, all slimes here we have defeated until now were light blue in color. The slime jelly it drops is semi-transparent, odorless and tasteless, but the color of the slimes here is different from the previous dungeon. Is the slime jelly dropped from different colored slimes the same?

I'm afraid to say that Syl's implemented knowledge doesn't have anything on this. Maa~ On the contrary, if there was a detailed knowledge about the ecology of slimes, that would actually be quite unpleasant...

Because it doesn't look like we will come across slimes different than the light blue ones here, I'm looking forward to the next dungeon.

Allen and Elena beat the monster that appeared one after another.

Water Lizard, Sand Crab, Big Lobster... Only when there were a lot of monsters, I reduced their numbers first and let Allen and Elena fight one on one as much possible. But, they are already getting used to it, so it will be alright to let them deal with multiple enemies soon? The amount of magical power they have left is still okay. Shall we try without thinning out the numbers next time?

“ “Found~” “

About an hour after entering the first floor, Allen and Elena found a staircase to the next floor.

This Dungeon of Ripples seems to be slightly bigger than the Dungeon of Earth. But, I feel like the difficulty in this Intermediate Class dungeon isn't that different from the Beginner Class one.

The monsters appearing are of F and E ranks...

Is it like this because this is a lower floor? Will the degree of difficulty gradually increase from now on?

I descend the staircase while thinking so.

The second floor isn't different from the first one.

“ “[Wat~er Ba~ll]” “

The moment we get down, a Poison Frog appeared. Allen and Elena instantly killed it with magic.

It appears that the children have gotten used to the magic already.

“You are so skillful. I have no words!”

“ “Heee~” “

When I praise them, Allen and Elena bashfully smile. Seriously, my children are too cute!

“ “Ah, there~” “

While in agony because of Allen's and Elena's cuteness, the two suddenly found a secret room.

I confirm whether a trap is there or not and slowly slide the door open.

A treasure chest is in the middle of the room. A treasure chest the size of the extent where I would have to hold it with both of my hands. There's neither a trap or a key needed to open the chest. Iya~ Having appraisal in situations like this is quite nice~

“ “Can open~?” “

“You can. It's safe”

When Allen and Elena open the chest, there was a large amount of shrimps inside. Shrimps bright red as the Whiskered velvet shrimp. Botan shrimp-ish?

They are not alive, but they are fresh as if just caught.

“ “What is this~?” “

“Un? These are shrimps. It’s food”

“ “Delish~?” “

“Aah~... I have never eaten this shrimp. But, shrimps are delicious”

“ “Can eat~?” “

“Eh? Raw!? No, wait!”

Can shrimps be eaten raw? Ah! Appraisal doesn’t show edibility!

Why does it not have such needed info!?

“Allen, Elena. I will make a delicious dinner using these shrimps later, how about we don’t eat it right now?”

“ “? Un. Understand” “

Ha~ I’m glad Allen and Elena are not selfish children~ Because there are children that have to have their own way even if told not to do something. I’m sincerely glad that they are obedient children~

In fact, I think that there won’t be any problems if eaten raw, but it’s better to stop them just in case. As compensation, I will cook a delicious shrimp dish, okay!

I pull myself together, and we continue to advance. 2-4 floors went favorably without an accident.

We found several treasure chests on the way, but they were all full of seafood. A pure white shrimps, clams, kelp, bonito flakes¹, etc. Of course, I gratefully accepted it all.

Especially bonito flakes! I have received small dried fish from the Water God Retainer-sama, but bonito flakes weren’t among them.

I like soup stock with katsuobushi the most. Therefore, I was a bit happy~ Because even if you have bonito, it takes a time to make bonito flakes.

We smoothly advance forward and are on the fifth floor at the moment.

“ “Found~” “

The time is good, so let's end today's capturing here. It's just a right time since Allen and Elena found a staircase to the sixth floor.

Since that's the case, let's make a dinner. Today's meal is Evil Viper meat I have completely forgotten about served with rice.

Iya~ It was a snake with evil appearances, but the meat was soft and delicious. As expected of A-Rank monster.

Although it's a rare high-class ingredient, I have secured 100kg of meat. One hundred grams is enough for us to have one meal. Therefore, we won't run out for a while. Rather, I think I secured way too much... Oh well.

After that, I boiled the shrimps we got during the day with salt. I thought trying it simple for now.

It was just salted, but it was delicious.

“ “Delish~” “

Allen and Elena were also satisfied with the Evil Viper and shrimps.

Now then, our stomachs are full so let's take it easy and sleep.

CHAPTER 47

DUNGEON OF RIPPLES • CAPTURE 2

When the dawn breaks, we have a light breakfast and resume the capture.

Today, we are starting on the sixth floor.

It is originally a maze, but it's getting slightly complicated. Hidden passages are now harder to find.

“ “Yaa!” “

Once they finished the magic training, Allen and Elena are free to fight as they like, causing their kicking style to explode. It seems they like martial arts more than magic. But, they appear to remember my warnings about not approaching poison monsters as they are properly defeating them with magic.

“Oops, wait a moment!”

It's Impact Shell. That's a shell monster, but it releases a shock wave when hit. Because of that, you have to make a distance when attacking it.

“You have to attack that from bigger distance than usual”

“ “Ye~s” “

I inform Allen and Elena, and they take distance from the Impact Shell. Then, I hit the Impact Shell with a light magic that wouldn't defeat it.

And immediately, *bon*, the sound broke, and vibrations passed through. It's this faint because we are far away from it, the impact in the vicinity of the Impact Shell is considerably large.

“See? It's okay when you defeat it in one blow, but as you have seen, you could get injured so let's defeat it from a distance just in case, okay?”

“ “Understood~” “

When Allen and Elena reply in consent, I shoot magic again and defeat the Impact Shell.

Which reminds me, I haven't looked at Allen's and Elena's status for a while now. I though so and confirmed it——

Status

【Name】 Allen (Elena)

【Race】 Human?

【Occupation】 Fighter

【Age】 5

【Level】 25

【Skills】

Water Magic | Hand-to-hand Combat | Evasion

Throwing | Swimming | Presence Detection

Jumping | Telepathy

Gathering | Arithmetics

Abnormal Status Resistance

【Titles】

Water God's Child

Conqueror of Low-Grade Dungeon

What I notice first is that the question marks have disappeared. It clearly states 【Water God's Child】 now.

Although I don't know if it's because I figured out their identity or because the level of my appraisal has increased.

I don't think it's about the amount of magical power like in Kaiser's case.

...Still, this is bad. I'm level 27 at the moment. It turns out that Allen's and Elena's level is not that different from mine now.

Even though it should have considerably increased when I defeated the Evil Viper. They caught up all too soon.

Is is that? The hunting competition with Joule and others during our trip from Shirin? They have defeated quite the number of monsters that time... The monsters of Gaya Forest are overall strong, it seems they raised their levels smoothly.

As expected, being lower level than the two would be uncool... But, you see... these children love fighting so much, refraining them would be a bit, right~

But, even so, it's impossible to level while the children sleep because they sleep sticking close to me.

U~n, this is difficult...

For now, let's train at least the proficiencies. Because I don't have to defeat monsters to train proficiencies, all I have to do is practice when I'm free. Un, let's do that.

I have to be especially careful with the water magic!

“ “This~” “

“Thank you”

Allen and Elena brought me the Impact Shell's drop item.

It's a string sticking out from cylinder made from paper... This, this is a cracker, right?

【Cracker】

When the string is pulled, a light exploding sound will come out from the cylinder part. Just right for startling people.

..... It's the very cracker, alright. A strange thing appeared again.

However, the description! “Just right for startling people,” that isn't the original use!

A cracker is intended for parties, not for startling people. Although I have used it to startle people, state the original use in the description properly!

“ “This, wha~t is?” “

“N? This is called a cracker, and when you pull this string, *pan*, it will make a loud sound. Do you want to try it?”

Since we obtained it, let's try how much loud of a sound it makes.

“ “Want~” “

“Then, turn this part away from you. You can’t aim it towards yourselves and other people, okay? Then, will you two pull the string together?”

“ “Ye~s” “

While I hold the cylinder, Allen and Elena hold the string and at the count of [One~two], Allen and Elena pull on the string.

——*Paan!!*

“!!!!”

“ “Hiyaa!” “

The moment the string was pulled, the cracker made a loud explosive sound.

My ears are ringing.

The sound was louder than I expected. Allen and Elena scream in a startle, cling to my legs and tremble.

Who was the one who wrote the description *Just right for startling people!?*

This is already a lethal sound weapon! Moreover, not only the other party, you also inflict considerable self-damage.

“Allen, Elena, sorry. It startled you, didn’t it?”

“ “Uu~” “

The two are slightly teary eyes. I’m really sorry.

Anyway, let’s embrace the two and soothe them.

Afterwards, when the defeated Impact Shell dropped Crackers, Allen and Elena didn’t approach them.

This didn’t become a trauma or something, right? They just don’t want to approach it,

right?

I also thought about leaving the Crackers behind, but couldn't this item be used by handing it to the opponent and letting him self-destruct? Because I thought so, I reconsidered and picked it up.

I thought using it when coming across a nasty fellow like Baron Gilbert.

Since it's not an excessively known item, I thought the opponent may want to get his hands on it out of curiosity.

Nothing in particular has happened after the Cracker incident and we have advanced smoothly.

Maa, the rate at which we encountered monsters has increased? Only to that degree.

So, we are currently on the ninth floor, but... Oops, a Water Lizard is sticking to the ceiling.

At any rate, it's huge. A lizard as big as a human child... If I had to say, newt-ish?

It can stick to the ceiling without falling quite well~

"Allen, Elena. Look for a bit—— [Water Needle]"

The water flowing in the waterway changes into a sharp needle and pierces the Water Lizard.

It's a magic where you compress the original source of water and change its shape to attack.

I had defeated it properly as the Water Lizard turned into a drop item. "Water Lizard's Tail," it says. What can this item be used for? Maa, let's put it in the [Infinite Storage] for now.

"Did you see it? Do you want to practice magic by changing the water's shape like this?"

" "Un, will do~" "

Allen and Elena are already accustomed to the Water Ball enough, so I thought it's time

for them to learn something new.

“ “[Wat~er Niidoru]” “

Allen and Elena turn towards a Water Lizard sticking to a wall and cast the spell.

Many Water Lizards are sticking on the walls as we advance. It's a perfect place for Allen and Elena to practice so they take care of them one after another.

CHAPTER 48

DUNGEON OF RIPPLES • CAPTURE 3

After hunting Water Lizards to our heart's content, we have decided to suspend the capture and take a break because we have found the staircase to the 10th floor.

That being the case, good morning.

It's finally the 10th floor today. There should be the transfer device on this floor so let's aim for that!

Oh, before that, breakfast. Now then, what shall we eat~... Freshly baked bread, sunny-side-up fried eggs, and a wiener. Is it okay with potage soup?

Allen and Elena are not picky. No, wrong... They love Cream bread and French toast, so they have no "food they dislike."

Maa~ anyhow, since they are eating so deliciously, it's worth making it.

After we finish the breakfast, we resume the capturing right away.

The 10th floor is identical to the past floors with a waterway in the middle and space to walk on the sides.

Allen and Elena choose the passage on the right, and after several minutes of walking, we have encountered a large cast of Sand Crabs.

" "Yaa!" "" "Too!" "

Allen and Elena smoothly annihilated them at once, though.

Crab legs and Crab shells are rolling on the ground together with drop items.

Which reminds me, I have not tried the Kani Nabe¹ yet. Should I try making it for today's dinner~

Following, a large lounge of Water Lizards have appeared.

“ “ 〈Wat~er Niidoru〉 ” “

They precisely penetrate the Water Lizards sticking to the walls with Water Needles. They learned this magic just yesterday yet they have already mastered it. They really do learn quick...

Overtaking me is a matter of time... *kusun* (Crying)



“Is this it...”

After smoothly advancing while defeating monsters on the way, we found a door similar to the door which led to the boss room in the Dungeon of Earth.

There's no point in staying here any longer so when I touch the door, it starts shining as I expected—and with a *gigigi* sound, it slowly opens.

It's the same phenomenon as in the Dungeon of Earth. I was somehow surprised the last time, but it's not so surprising the second time, huh.

However, I was surprised when the door opened.

Most of the room is filled with water. The area around the door is a land, and then there's something like a small island in the center. Otherwise, everything is water.

Looking at the water from the surface, it seems to be quite deep.

A long bridge is suspended straight between the place we are staying at and the island. It seems we have to go to the island.

I have decided to cross the bridge while paying attention to both sides as there are no handrails. Something will jump out of the water at us without a doubt.

“[Wind Cutter]”

As expected, something has jumped at us from the water. Shooting it down with magic, it was Arrowfish.

Arrowfish is a fish with long and narrow appearances similar to an otter, the tip of its body resembles a terrifying arrowhead. And, as the name suggests, it's a fish monster

that jumps from the water at considerably speeds just like an arrow.

Because it's movements are monotone, it's considered as a lowly F-Rank monster.

However, it wasn't just that Arrowfish.

After the first Arrowfish, more and more Arrowfish came flying at us from both sides one after another.

“[Winder Cutter]”

“ “[Wat~er Ba~ll]” “

I shoot down the Arrowfish with magic together with Allen and Elena.

The troublesome thing is that Arrowfish lives in groups. You will certainly have a painful experience if you neglect them for being F-Rank.

After shooting down about 100 of them, it has finally calmed down. Was this the all for now?

Looking at the water's surface, a lot of Arrowfish drop items are floating in the water. Most of it are arrows.

Due to the flow of water... the drop items that fell away from the bridge were drifting towards us, making it easy to pick them up.

Nevertheless, arrows, huh...

I have wanted to try archery in a long time ago. Maa, I wanted to, but never actually tried.

Why, you ask? I was scared of shooting myself, didn't I...

...It shouldn't be a problem now. I should buy a good bow and try practicing.

Which reminds me, the guild is offering short courses on weapon handling. In that case, I may also learn how to handle weapons other than the bow, such as sword or spear.

We arrive at the island in the center while picking up the items, and I start feeling monster presence again. I wonder if Arrowfish will start jumping at us again?

“Allen on the left, Elena on the right. Can you do it?”

“Un! Allen will work hard~”

“Elena too. Elena will work hard too~”

I point with my finger and show them the direction they are in charge of. Allen and Elena stay in front, each taking care of their side while I stay behind covering left and right from behind.

Allen and Elena returned reliable replies.

“[Wind Cutter]”

“ “[Wat~er Ba~ll]” “

As expected, more Arrowfish came flying.

Allen and Elena shoot down the Arrowfish on their respective sides one after another. It's a situation where they have to fire magic continuously, but Allen and Elena don't panic.

After shooting down enough to forget to count, the monster presence finally disappeared.

Does it end with this?

When I look at the water's surface after defeating the last Arrowfish, it was full of arrows and small blue magic stones.

Besides that, a short, small spear? was there. Perhaps a javelin?

Speaking of which, it felt like there were one or two larger individuals every 30 or so fish. I didn't confirm, but is that the drop from it?

Before I notice, another bridge which is leading away from the island towards a hole in a wall has appeared.

This is apparently the end, it doesn't seem like monsters will come flying at us on the other bridge.

“ “Onii~chan, look, look. Many~” “

“That’s amazing~ You two really worked hard~”

“ “Ehehe~” “

Allen and Elena are holding arrows they have picked up in both of their hands.

They worked hard shooting the Arrowfish with magic, and they even picked up the dropped items on their own, seriously hard working and good children~

Good boy, good girl, when I pat the two, they become bashful. Kawaii~

“Can I ask you to help me collect more?”

“ “Un!” “

With Allen and Elena’s help, we have finished collecting the dropped items.

Then, let’s go to the opposite bank at once. When I thought about crossing over, Allen and Elena pulled on my clothes.

“N? What’s the matter?”

“Onii~chan, bellow”

“Something’s there~”

“Eh? Down in the water?”

“ “Un!” “

It appears that Allen and Elena have noticed something in the water.

I think it’s apparent that it’s not a living creature. Because if it was a living creature, I should be able to detect it myself.

As I’m unable to sense not living beings, if Allen and Elena say there’s something in there, then there’s something in there.

“It looks safe, want to take a dive?”

“ “Un!” “

First of all, let's dive in and confirm.

There's no need to prepare anything because of the Mermaid bracelet, so we can go in without hesitation.

"Ah, a treasure chest"

The water is surprisingly deep, but as the water is clear, I was able to see a treasure chest at the bottom immediately.

To think it would be at a place like this... Allen and Elena did well noticing~

After checking the presence of a trap and opening the box, there was a Mermaid bracelet in the treasure chest.

It must be quite rare since it's in a treasure chest. However, because we already have it, the surprise was reduced by half?

But, if there's spare, I can use it for Joule or others, so I will gratefully accept it.

Since there wasn't anything else besides the treasure chest, we leave from the water and cross the bridge. When I looked to the inner part from the entrance, there was a small room as expected.

There was a staircase leading down and a transfer device installed next to it.

"Then, shall we go?"

"Un!"

I take Allen and Elena, touch the transfer device, and we return to the hall on the first floor.

Now then, we have achieved our objective, let's make a lavish meal of Kani Nabe!

CHAPTER 49

HARBOR TOWN BAILEY

After successfully capturing the tenth floor, we have returned to the hall on the first floor where we spend the night.

Of course, we have thoroughly enjoyed Kani Nabe for dinner. I used miso based soup and used not only crabs but also other seafood such as shrimps and plenty vegetables. Sand Crabs are really delicious. Allen and Elena stuffed their cheeks full. They were chewing with inflated cheeks, looking like cute squirrels~

And the next morning, we have arrived in Bailey.

When we entered the town, we headed towards the harbor first. Bailey is connected to a sea, so many boats are coming in and out of the harbor.

Fishing boats and merchant ships transporting people and goods to other countries. Large and small ships are lined up in the harbor.

Despite it being early in the morning, the square near the harbor is crowded with many people.

It's a morning market. The fresh marine products caught in the morning are being sold here.

There are also many stalls where you can eat on the spot.

We have not eaten breakfast this morning yet. I thought that such place would be in a harbor town, so we came here early in the morning.

We have spotted many street stall and shops while looking around.

A shop selling fresh fish. A shop selling fish and shellfish grilled on a charcoal fire. A considerable variety of seafood is being sold.

Oh, this shop is selling scallops.

This stall is selling scallops in shells on top of a grill. The muscles of these scallops are larger than of the Yesso Scallops I'm familiar with.

"Hello"

“Ou, welcome. These were caught just this morning. Would you like to eat some?”

“They look delicious. Is this seasoned with salt?”

“Yeah, that’s right”

“If possible, I would like to season it myself, is it okay?”

“A different seasoning? Well, I don’t mind”

“Then, can I have three?”

“These are almost done. Are these fine?”

“Yes. Then... ——”

I pay the money and place a piece of butter on top of the muscles. When the butter melts, I sprinkle it with soy sauce.

The butter and soy sauce heat up in a blink of an eye and a delicious smell floats around.

It’s butter-soy sauce grilled scallop. Scallops should be done like this when it comes to grill, right?

“Allen, Elena. It’s hot so be careful when eating, okay?”

“ “Ye~s” “

When I hand the hot shells to Allen and Elena after transferring it on a plate, the two *fuufuu...* cool it down and start eating.

“Allen, Elena. How is it? Delicious?”

“ “Delish~” “

Seeing Allen and Elena eat so deliciously, I take the big scallop and eat too.

Terrific! Delicious!!

The muscle is so tender and delicious. Moreover, because it’s so big, I got quite filled with just one.

“ “Onii~chan, delish~?” “

“Un, delicious”

Somehow, I feel warm and fluffy~

“S, smells really good. Niichan, I understand the first thing was butter, but what was the dark liquid?”

“It’s a sap from a tree called Koikuchi which grows in dungeons, it’s seasoning called Soy Sauce. Would you like to try?”

“I, is that okay!? Please!”

The stall owner who watched us eat seemed to want to try it too. The fragrance of butter and soy sauce is really appetizing after all.

When I asked if he wants to try, he immediately bit the bait. Therefore, when I finished making the scallop with the same procedure as before, the stall owner immediately chomped it down.

“Delicious!! What is this, I have never tasted something so delicious. So good!”

Super-high praise. The stall owner finished eating in a blink of an eye.

I know it’s delicious, but let’s calm down a bit. If you shout so loud, you will attract the attention of the surroundin—

“Oyaji, that looks delicious. I’d like to eat that too!”

“Me too!”

“Give me some too~”

“I would like some too”

Are? The surroundings had gathered before I noticed... It appears that the passersby already gathered because of the fragrance.

“ “Ah~” “

Unconsciously, the stall owner and I leak out a voice.

“Niichan... could you lend me that soy sauce?”

“Maa, I’m also responsible, I don’t mind”

I obtained quite a lot of soy sauce in the town of Shirin, so there’s no problem selling a bottle to this uncle.

Rather, butter and soy sauce scallops are not a product here. If I said something wrong, the people here would probably riot.

“Sorry about that~ By the way, could you lend me some butter too?”

“Ah~ Sure”

Lured by the fragrance, customers seeking butter and soy sauce scallops formed a queue.

The stall owner stuffed the grill with scallops to the limit.

Because I couldn’t just feign ignorance and leave, I was in charge of putting butter and soy sauce over the scallops.

Allen and Elena who finished eating their scallops were clinging to my legs while quietly observing the situation.

“Sorry. We are sold out!”

The scallops ran out of stock in no time. People who hadn’t eaten yet walked away from the stall with disappointed expressions.

To be honest, I didn’t expect such thing to happen.

“To be sold out so early, it’s my first time since setting the stall up. Niichan, sorry, you even had to help me~”

“Iya~ I was surprised that so many people came~”

“You don’t see such seasonings around here after all. The tempting appetizing smell makes it even better. Everyone would get attracted by it”

From talking more, it appears that every stall only uses salt as seasoning.

I guess it will be delicious just because it's fresh, but having the same taste in every shop...

"Nevertheless, I had sold it because of the course of events, was that okay? Or..."

The stall owner is fidgeting for some reason. He's hesitating to ask something. Un, a fidgeting old man is not cute at all.

This is that. The same attitude Road-san had when I made Cream bread.

"No problem. If you want to sell it, do as you please"

"Really!?"

It's just pouring over some seasoning, it's not that different from the original dish.

It's just—

"However, please supply the seasoning by yourself"

"Of course!"

If he uses up the soy sauce, he has to secure more by himself. I had to make that point clear.

"Oh, right! Niichan, take this"

The stall owner held out a bucket which was laying aside at the stall. Inside were without a doubt, scallops.

Are? Wasn't he sold out?

"These are slightly smaller than the ones I sell. They are smaller in size, but I can guarantee the taste"

The stall owner says he can't sell them, but they are big enough to eat.

"Is that okay?"

"Sure. I think it's little lacking as thanks, but please accept them"

"Thank you very much"

After I had received the scallops, the owner went looking for a store selling soy sauce, so we have separated. Leaving the stall as is...

"He left"

" "Left~" "

Maa, the stalls on both sides should be owned by his acquaintances, so it's probably okay...

"Allen, Elena, you can still eat, right? What would you like to eat next~?"

" "Ntone~... That~" "

I made them wait a while, but let's continue the breakfast?

CHAPTER 50

WATER DRAGON'S SCALE

After the meal, we have looked around the stalls in the morning market.

Anyhow, there are many marine products displayed. From the familiar fish and shellfish to colorful tropical fish. Sometimes, we would see poisonous fish, but all that was also edible seafood.

I was troubled what to buy because there were so many different kinds, but I have asked the people in charge for a recommendation and decided to buy that. Thereupon, before I realized, I have purchased a massive amount of marine products.

Honestly, have I bought too much? Is that I thought at first, but on Aetherdia, fish can be only obtained on the sea side, so I won't be able to get more when we move inland. I have decided to buy as much as I can.

After finished shopping, we went through the morning market square and strolled along the shopping street. There, a Blacksmith caught my eye, so I decided to take a look.

"Excuse me~"

"Ou. Customer?"

When entering the store and calling out, an Oyaji-san showed his face from inside.

"Would you be able to refine this?"

What I show him is Leviathan's——Kaiser's scale.

I have split them in suitable sizes.

When resting in the dungeon, I tried to break it with a tool and it unexpectedly easily broke just as Kaiser said.

It's just that because it really broke, the fragments were sharp and could inflict an injury if carelessly touched.

“Let me take a look... Not a stone. A scale? Nevertheless, it’s quite thick and heavy. Besides, this magical power..... No way!!!?”

As expected, handing him a scale just as I received would be bad. I split it thinking such, but it seems it can’t escape a trained eye.

The blacksmith Oyaji-san stares at me in surprise.

“This is not something that you can find on the ground”

“Ah~ Is that so~”

Dragon scales don’t fall off easily.

No, I said it wrong. When it’s time for a dragon to replace its scales, the old scales will come off in its nest, you can hardly find dragon scales away from the dragon’s nest.

Another thing is that it can’t be obtained by hurting a dragon, it has to be defeated. However, aside from sub-dragons, superior dragons are something that humans seldom challenge.

Because of that, Leviathan’s scales are something to revere.

Oyaji-san asks me where did I find something that’s almost impossible to obtain at the market.

“W, where did you get it?”

“...It’s a present”

“Something so precious, who would just give it you!”

“That’s strictly confidential”

“.....”

Even if I say that I got it from Leviathan himself (dragon at roots)? he wouldn’t believe... Rather, he would doubt my sanity.

He seems to be interested as a craftsman, but don’t inquire about it too deeply, please.

“It’s natural that something like this has to be secret, huh... so, you want me to polish this?”

“Yes. I don’t want to get hurt while carrying it. And then, I would like to make a hole big enough for a strap, but”

“Certainly, it would be dangerous if left as is. To scrap and polish to the degree that you won’t get injured... Maa, I think I could manage somehow, but... A hole would be impossible. If I’m to make a hole forcibly, it will break without a doubt”

“Eh, is that so?”

...Hey, Kaiser, I’m going to have a hard time making it into an ornament, though.

What should I do? I think it will be easy to lose by just putting it into a pocket~

“Ou, Rudi! Rudi! Come here for a bit!”

“What’s the matter, Boss?”

The Rudi that came from inside after being called by Oyaji-san is a slender man in his late twenties.

That would be the case~ As expected, this Oyaji-san is the boss here.

“Are, a customer? tte, why is Boss tending the store?”

“Rather than that, are you able to make an ornament out of this?”

“N? What is this? A stone? Although beautiful, it doesn’t seem to be a gem.... So, Master. This is?”

“A fragment of Water Dragon’s scale”

“Wwha!!? Seriously?”

“I have no doubts. He says he wants to make this into an ornament. You are good at that, aren’t you?”

He’s a worker here, and it seems his specialty is craftsmanship rather than smithing.

“I would like a pendant if possible, but”

“Please, wait a moment. Umm, polishing would be best. This is weaker than silver... Then, maybe a holy silver... ——”

Rudius-san smoothly draws a design on the paper at the counter.

It's a pendant of a blue fragment of the scale enclosed in metal fringe. A fine design is carved on the metal parts.

Although simple, it's quite delicate design. I like it.

"How about this?"

"Looks wonderful. Allen, Elena, what do you think?"

"Cool~"

"Pretty~"

Allen and Elena seem to like it too.

"Can I request you to make that?"

"Because steel and silver would be defeated by this scale, I have to make it from materials that won't lose out. Doing that will increase the price by a lot, but..."

"What kind of material would you use for example?"

"As expected, Mithril would be the best..."

Oh, Mithril! As expected, it's this mineral when it comes to fantasy!

"Is the supply of the materials a problem?"

"Umm... Boss! Is it okay to use the Mithril in the stock?"

"Yeah, there's not enough left to make a weapon, but there should be enough for a pendant"

The materials seem to be all right. I would like you to make it, but there's one modification I would like to make in the design.

"I would like to as for something other than a metal chain if possible"

I am not fond of the jingling feeling around my neck. Therefore, something like a

leather strap would be ideal if possible.

“Other than metal, huh~ If not a monster leather... Mithril Spider’s thread would be nice~ Boss~ Can’t we somehow get our hands on it~”

“Don’t be silly! How could we obtain something so precious that easily! Even if it appears on the market, it will get immediately bought!”

Mithril Spider... Isn’t that a rare monster that mutates after consuming Mithril?

The Mithril’s special characteristics appear on the web of the spider. Rather, it matches one of the items I have received from Syl...

“Is this enough?”

“Eh!? Eeeeeh——!! I, isn’t that!! Mithril Spider’s threaaad~!! Why do you have it!?”

When I retrieve Mithril Spider’s thread from [Infinite Storage] and show it to Rudius-san, he freaks out.

“Water Dragon’s scale is one thing, but you even have Mithril Spider’s thread...”

Boss sighs deeply.

I understood that it’s a rare material, but... I see, so this is the normal reaction...

I have surprised a lot of people recently, so I feel that I’m getting immune to surprises.

“Then, three of those, please”

“Haaaaa!?”

When I take another two scale fragments, he freaks out again.

Un. I knew he would have such reaction.

“Three you say... perhaps!?”

“It’s for these children, you know?”

If Kaiser is able to sense us because of that, I would definitely like for Allen and Elena to carry them too.

“How extravagant!”

“When it comes to Water Dragon’s scales, there are some water-related benefits, after all, “

“...That’s certainly the case, but... However, I really appreciate that I would be able to make goods out of these rare materials. Then, since I will be making three, can I change the design, so they are not all the same?”

“Yes, I don’t mind. Especially Elena’s... I would like this child’s design to be more girlish. Isn’t that so, Elena?”

“Un!”

I don’t mind a simple one, but Elena’s should be more cute, right?

When confirming with her, she returned a positive reply. It seems a cute one would be better as expected.

“What about Allen? Do you have a request?”

“N~?”

It seems Allen doesn’t have any special request. He tilted his head for a bit, then shook left and right.

The two are always in sync, but they display their individual personalities at times like these.

“Then, what do you want to do about the scales’ powder that comes out during the polishing? Do you want to take it?”

“Powder? Are you not disposing of it?”

“You, that’s Water Dragon’s Scale, you know! Its powder is a wonderful material! Just by mixing it with molten metal while making armor will increase its hardness dramatically, you know!!”

...I got scolded.

I see, even the powder can be used... It seems that Kaiser's scale is just that precious. In the end, I decided to let the shop keep the powder, and they deducted it from the fee. Kaiser wouldn't probably mind just this much powder.

Or rather, it would only collect dust in [Infinite Storage] if I kept it.

Once the order was complete, Rudius-san immediately returned to the back of the workshop with the materials.

With this, Kaiser's scale will be safely turned into ornaments. I can't wait for the completed goods~

CHAPTER 51

WICKED SNAKE SKIN AND ALLEN'S REQUEST

"Ah, that's right. Boss, is it also possible to order protective gear made with self-brought materials?"

"Of course. What's the material? Considering it's lad, it must be leather and not metal?"

"Yes, that's right. Can you make it with this?"

I retrieve a part of Evil Viper's skin from [Infinite Storage] and show it to Boss.

I remembered that I wanted to make armor from this for myself and naturally for Allen and Elena as well.

"Wwha!? T, the hell is this!! This lustrous color. The quality of magical power... Perhaps, is it Evil Viper!?"

"That's correct. You recognized it as well"

Boss has recognized Evil Viper at a glance.

Craftsmen are amazing. Unless I use appraisal, I can't tell from what monster the material is.

"Again! Taking out valuable things as toys. Seriously, where do you get your hands on all of this!!"

"Ah~ I have defeated that one"

Unlike Kaiser's scale, I have sold Evil Viper to the guild. Because he could find out if he checked, I answered honestly.

"What you say!? You are an adventurer? What's your rank?"

"A-Rank, more or less"

"Seriously!?"

I'm aware that I don't look strong.

However, I have asked for armor in the first place, though? Did he think that I'm not an adventurer, but just need armor for traveling?

"I thought you weren't ordinary, but... A-Rank, huh. Even though I have thought that I had an eye for adventurers after working for so many years... You can't judge people by their appearances, huh"

Ah, that. That's similar to the words of the Shirin's Adventurer's Guild's Guild Master. It appears that my condition is mismatched.

"Sorry... I strayed away from the talk. So, protective armor, right? This is a rarely seen first-class material. If you want to use it, let me make it, by all means"

"Can you do Enchantment? I would like to have automatic size adjustment, but"

Enchantment means to give weapons, armors, accessories, or tools a magic effect. Strengthening the tools, increasing durability... There are many kinds of magic effects.

"Enchantment, huh~ ... Certainly, if you use a material like this, you would like to have Enchantment~ But, that is impossible for me. Craftsmen who would be able to do that can be found only in the capital"

"Is that so?"

I see, so it's not possible, after all~

People who can use Enchantment magic are few, to begin with. Furthermore, it rarely happens that such person is also a production craftsman.

Even if they are not a craftsman, locating someone who can do it and asking them to apply magic is also quite difficult.

"I wanted to make boots for these children, but..."

The boots we are wearing now is what Syl has actually prepared for us, it has automatic size, and automatic temperature adjustments, automatic repairment, dirt prevention effect, the boots are super first-class items.

However, I'm worried about the defensive aspect. Especially for Allen and Elena whose core is kicking.

Therefore, I thought of getting them battle-oriented boots that emphasized defense, but... If the boots are made with Evil Viper's skin, they should be resistant to both physical and magical attacks.

But you see~ Allen and Elena will only grow from now on. As expected, without automatic size adjustment, the shoes will become small all too soon.

There's really no problem in making new shoes whenever they get bigger. I can earn enough money to buy good ones every time.

It's just that we live a life where we move a lot because we are not settling in one place, I won't be able to predict the timing to make new ones, the days involved in the production, etc.

But, after all, I'd like to make sure the shoes are perfect. N~ It appears that getting excellent armor is not as easy as it looks...

"For children? That's some extravagance again. But, as the children grows, the size adjustments will be needed even more, right~ Kwu~ Even though it was finally my chance to handle a good material~"

Should I give on making the children's boots this time? The current boots are sufficient enough for now.

Besides, it seems that I will be able to find a craftsman that can do Enchantment in the capital, so I should endure until then. That person might be able to make something excellent.

Boss looks very regrettable that he can't process the Evil Viper's skin... He's drowning in sorrow.

N~ Equipment that needs Enchantment would be impossible, but—

"My breastplate and so on—"

"Of course! Leave it to me!!"

...I couldn't speak until the end.

I see. He wanted to use the Evil Viper skin that much.

"Also, I would like to request gloves as well"

I would like a breastplate that could protect the heart. Ah~ But, wouldn't vest or something be better?

Also, gloves for gathering. The gloves from normal leather are enough for the moment, but it will become a necessity depending on the plants.

Herbs that releases electricity when held, herbs that has to be held while blocking its magical power, there are many special plants.

I would probably want to pick them if found.

"Gloves! Those are certainly for lad, right?"

"Yes, that's right~ And then, a gauntlet? I would like something that could cover my arm"

"Gauntlet? Not from metal, but leather? No, this leather is stronger than some metals, but. Or is it not a protective gear?"

"I keep a hawk. When that child lands on my arm, his claws digs in a little"

It's alright at the moment if Bolt gently lands, but I thought I should have one just in case. I should just have one made.

"Ah, so that's it. That's just one arm then. Let's take the measurements first"

"Ah, yes... N?"

When Boss was about to start taking my measurements, Allen was pulling on my clothes.

"What's wrong, Allen?"

"Allen wants too~"

"N? You want gloves?"

“Uun. Bolt’s~”

Bolt’s?... Ah!

“Allen wants to hold Bolt on his arms as well?”

“Un!”

Allen unusually requested something on his own.

And it being a gauntlet for Bolt, what an adorable request.

Come to think of it, he was looking at the swords and armors since we have entered this store. As a boy, he would be interested in such things, after all?

“Alright. Let’s make one for Allen as well”

“Really~! Yatta~!”

“How about Elena?”

“N~?”

Allen was very pleased when I decided to have one made on for Allen too.

When I asked Elena if she wants a gauntlet for Bolt as well, she shook her head like she doesn’t need it. On the contrary to before, Elena did not show interest this time.

“Then, Boss. Make a gauntlet for this child as well, please”

“I don’t mind making it, but what do you want to do about the leather? You are surely not telling me to make this child’s gauntlet from Evil Viper skin too?”

“Ah~”

I wouldn’t mind it being made from Evil Viper skin just like mine, but if I tell that to Boss it would probably seem too outrageous~

“Let’s see~ A material that wouldn’t get pierced by the hawk’s claws while being light enough to not become a burden to this child. Anything is fine, would you be able to

find an appropriate one?”

If the Evil Viper skin is not used, I don't know what else may be good. It would be better to leave this to Boss.

“I see, in that case, leave it to me. That's right, why don't I make the gauntlet larger and fix the arm portion with straps? If I do that, he may keep on using it even after he grows to some extent”

“Yes. Thank you very much. Do that please”

What a delightful suggestion. It would be better if it could get adjusted with straps. I immediately approved of Boss's suggestion.

“Allen, is there anything else you want?”

“No, is fi~ne!”

Oya? He showed interest so I had thought he would like some kind of weapon or something, but... Was he just curious?

Maa, isn't that good for the moment?

I only have to buy him a weapon when he becomes bigger and interested.

After confirming our orders, we have left the store.

It will take about one week for all the items to be ready. I'm looking forward to finished products~

CHAPTER 52

PROMOTION

(Yaa, Takumi-san. You seem well)

We came across a temple while strolling around the town, so I decided to stop by for the first time in a while.

When I entered inside, I went towards the stone statue and spoke to Syl as usual. Then, Syl immediately replied.

(Maa, that's so. Rather than that Syl, I have heard about Allen and Elena)

I inform him that I know that Allen and Elena are Water God's children just in case. Syl might have already known that I know, though.

(...Un. Sorry for keeping silent about it)

(I understand that Syl wasn't at fault)

(Un, thank you)

(More importantly that that, what is Allen's and Elena's father doing?)

(.....)

Syl became silent at my question. It appears he can't tell me.

(...I understand, I understand)

Haa... I won't hear more than this... In the first place, I did not expect to hear much.

Nevertheless, Allen's and Elena's father—Just what kind of person is Water God-sama? As the appearances of Syl's statue is exactly the same, there won't probably be much difference from his statue, right?

Water God-sama's appearances are the complete opposite of Syl's androgynous-like

look. He gives off very manly impression.

Naturally, he's handsome. Besides, that. Hoso macho¹. How envious~

Muscles are something I have yearned for in a period of my life. However, since I was no good at exercising and muscles were hard to attain. Hoso macho... that was a dream within a dream...

Oops, the talk got off point. Umm... right, right appearances. Allen and Elena are also good-looking. I feel like they resemble Water God... not that much?

Honestly, I can't tell. Because the statue is all white, I can't tell hair color and such~

I have a certain feeling that Water God-sama may be happy-go-lucky. As far as looking at the communication between Syl and Water God-sama's Chief retainer. They seem to have some hardships.

Maa, isn't that okay? If he butted in now and took Allen and Elena away, I would be lonely.

Ah, right, right. I wanted to ask Syl something today.

(Naa, Syl. (Temporary) has disappeared from the retainer in the race row, what does that mean?)

Right. A short after meeting Kaiser and acquiring 【Telepathy】 skill, I confirmed my status. At that time, I noticed that the (Temporary) had disappeared from the race row before I noticed.

(Un. Takumi-san, congratulations on your promotion)

(Haa?)

(Takumi-san has officially become my retainer~)

(Haaaa!?)

In my slightly absentminded ears, I hear Syl clapping his hands.

(It was slightly faster than I have expected~It was almost as planned)

..... Moreover, it was planned? You should have told me beforehand.

Rather, what is with this official retainer business! I didn't hear anything about that.

As if perceiving my mind's voice, Syl begins explaining regarding the official retainers.

(To become official retainer you see~ A symbol or perhaps should I say each has a role bestowed upon them when they become fully qualified)

Eh, symbol? Role?

(In other words, you are giving me work?)

(N~ It's slightly different from work? In short, you look after your symbol. By the way, I'm the [Wind])

(So, what about me?)

(.....)

(Syl?)

(.....It's [Nurture] and [Education])

(.....Eh?)

Wait a moment... What did Syl just say?... Nurture and Education?

Why did something like that become my symbol? Is it related to Allen and Elena?

(Are? But, can something like that be a symbol of Wind God's retainer?)

Because I'm Wind God's retainer, nurture and education must be under Syl's jurisdiction, right? He doesn't have such image, though.

(That's wrong! [Nurture] and [Education] is Malianor-sama's territory! It can't be helped because Takumi-san has received Malianor-sama's blessing, but~ Takumi-san is my retainer, you know? Why don't you have a role related to the wind!?)

N? What, Syl unusually lost his temper... Did I possibly touch a subject that shouldn't

be touched?

Did Syl lose his temper because my symbol is not related to the wind? Wich reminds me, he was making a fuss when it came to the attribute of the contracted beast too.

But, this is not something I can fix.

(It's not as I have decided it, so there's nothing I can do, right?)

(That is true, but...)

He's like a sulking child...

(So, what should I do from now on?)

(Ah, yes. Umm, although you have become an official retainer, you will be alright if you continue as you were)

(Is that so?)

(Yes. As you know, nurturing those children is a sufficient duty. You are right on the mark. Ah, right! Takumi-san, there are items for you from Fire God)

(Haa!? Syl, wait a moment... —)

—Piron♪

Suddenly, Syl recalled some items and sent them to me. Before I could stop him, an electric sound of atrocity resounded... When I timidly looked at the window screen, items with fire attributes were listed one after another. And outrageous amount at that.

Again!

This is really so abrupt I don't know what's what anymore. Why is Fire God-sama sending me items?

(Syl, I don't know the reason behind this, but...)

(It's gratitude for development of cooking on Aetherdia)

(N...?)

Development of cooking... what is he talking about?

(Takumi-san, Kashi-pan is popular in Shirin, right? Currently, far from the whole Guardia, that Kashi-pan is spreading to other countries, you know~ Also the soup called miso you have made on the expedition with the Knights. That has already become Shirin's staple product, you know!)

Eh? That's news.

I saw Kashi-pan while walking around Bailey, so I thought that *it was already introduced there*~ but, isn't it too early to spread to other countries?

I certainly made a miso soup during the expedition with the Knights. The Knights who tasted it asked how to make it, so I have taught them the existence of miso, but... Not only the Knights but a staple of Shirin?

(Besides, the soy sauce dish you have cooked with will probably spread immediately as well. That will spread in no time, you know?)

(Soy sauce dish? tte, that thing, butter and soy sauce! There certainly was a queue for that, but wasn't that just because it was unusual? That's exaggerated~)

(I think that Takumi-san doesn't know, but there has been no development of cooking on Aetherdia in the last several hundred years, you know? Although there were some changes, there were no new dishes that got popular like those of Takumi-san)

(You jest~)

That's ridiculous. There's no way there was no development in several hundred years, right?

I guess Syl is exaggerating a bit.

(There really was no development. That's why nearly every dish no matter what ingredients is salt-based)

Certainly... The meals we ate at the Inn were mostly seasoned with just salt.

If it's only ingredients, it's not that different from Earth, no... it's more abundant than

that. Because there are the same ingredients as on Earth, then there are ingredients that drop from monsters, the number of ingredients is absolutely higher on Aetherdia. But, even though the dishes aren't bad, there's not much variety. Eeh!? Then, there really was no development for several hundred years!?

(If you eat an ingredient that is [Exquisite] just as it is, people will stop devising further, after all)
(..... I see)

Ah~ I think I can understand that~

Rather than untactfully seasoning meat, simply seasoning it with salt may give it the best taste or a supreme fruit that's said to make you happy just by eating it as it is. Rather than honing their cooking skills, they rather concentrate their efforts on how to obtain such ingredient.

(Because of that, the Fire God was in great joy. Cooking is Fire God's territory, after all. Therefore, that's the gratitude for that. Also, the bestowal of 【Fire Magic】 skill and contracted beast has been prepared)

How grandiose. But, I would be glad to use fire magic. There are monsters that wind and water have a bad affinity with, after all. It's not a bad thing to have at hand. Also, a contracted beast, huh~ Now after it has come so far, I have no problems with having one more beast. I'm just worried about what kind of child it is.

(Listen well, Takumi-san. Next time, please do your best in the wind territory, okay!)

Although Syl has reminded me of that, it's not something I can aim towards so it's impossible. Give up.

CHAPTER 53

PLAYING IN WATER

“ “Ukyaa~” “

[Wafu~] [Gau~]

The next day after arriving in the town of Bailey. I brought Allen and Elena to an unpopular coast. I had remembered that when we arrived at the sea, we have immediately met with Mirena-san and went to the mermaid village, so we couldn't thoroughly enjoy the beach.

After arriving at the sea, Allen and Elena together with the summoned Joule and Feat charged into the sea.

“ “Take~” “

[Wafu] [Gau]

“ “Ukyaa~” “

[Wafu~n] [Gau~]

It appears that they have begun playing in the seawater at the shallow. Allen and Elena are splashing water at Feat and Joule with both of their hands.

They are not wearing the mermaid bracelets today. Because of that, Allen and Elena who went in fully clothed are drenched from head to toes. Maa, something like this may be good once in a while.

“Is Bolt not going to play?”

[Piii, pii]

He's probably saying "I will have to decline". Bolt quietly stays on my shoulder.

I gently stroke Bolt and sit on the sandy beach while watching the children play.

[Wafu] [Gau]

“ “Hiya~” “

Ah, Joule and Feat threw themselves on Allen and Elena, and a light *basha~n noise resounded from the sea.*

Oh boy. Maa, Joule, and Feat didn't throw themselves on them with their full power, so they are probably not injured.

—*Buruburuburuburu.*

“ “Unya~!!” “

When Allen and Elena got up, Joule and Feat shook, and all of the water in their fur flew out.

Ah~ That will of course splash water everywhere...

After finishing splashing water, Joule and Feat run away at full speed.

“Joule!!”

“Feat!!”

Allen and Elena began chasing after Joule and Feat who ran away.

Because Joule and Feat are not running away seriously, Allen and Elena catch up immediately, jump on and hug the backs of the two animals.

“ “Caught~” “

Maa, they usually act as ordinary pets, but they are without a doubt, S-Rank beasts. If Joule and Feat were escaping seriously, as expected Allen and Elena wouldn't be able to catch them so easily.

“ “Kyaa~” “

[Wafu] [Gau]

This time, Allen and Elena started running away. Joule and Feat chase after them. That's definitely the game of tag.

“ “Ah, crab~” “

While running around, chasing each other, a Sand Crab appeared before the two children and two animals.

[Wafu]

It was Joule's turn to escape this time, so the Sand Crab got blown away by the legs of the running Joule. *Peshi*, Joule just lightly touched it with its forepaw. And yet, the Sand Crab got blown off and ceased to move.

Oi, oi, that was heartless just now... it felt as if Joule was walking along the road and kicked a pebble. The opponent was a monster, but being knocked down before the battle even started is somewhat pitiful.

[Pii]

Bolt caught the Sand Crab that washed ashore in its feet and brought it to me.

It seems that both Joule and Bolt are pleased with the securing of the spoils of war. Let's at least make something delicious from it.

—*Basha*

“Uwa!!”

W, what!?

The weather was nice and warm, so I have apparently dozed off a little. Then, a lot of

water was came flying towards me... I'm drenched from head to toes.

“ “Ehehehe~” “

[Wafu~] [Gau~]

We have done it, I saw children making such expressions. It seems that the children have splashed me with water.

[Piii]

Bolt has cried in a worry, but Bolt himself shrewdly evacuated. If you had enough time to evacuate, I would like you to inform me as well...

“Hey, you guys!”

“ “Ukya~” “

[Wafu~] [Gau~]

When I stood up, pretending to be angry, they have entered the sea. Then, the two children and two animals escape while swimming. Seeing how good time they have, they must know that I'm not really mad.

I stop at the depth where the water hits my knees, manipulate the seawater with water magic and make a large wave. I send that wave towards the children.

It's that. The wave pool that's in certain water parks. It has such feeling.

The wave washes the children bodies which floated on the sea surface ashore.

“ “Kyahaha~” “

Allen and Elena were smiling after being swept by a wave. It seems they found it amusing.

“Onii~cha~n♪”

“One mo~re♪”

Allen and Elena who were carried ashore swam back to the open sea and requested me to do it again.

“Here, it’s coming~”

“ “Ye~s” “

I make a wave with magic one more time, and the wave carries Allen and Elena back.

“ “Kyahaha~” “

Allen’s and Elena’s laughter resounded again.

Because they apparently liked it, they asked me [One more time] [One more time] many times over. Answering to their request, I repeat using water magic. This is unexpectedly good practice for water magic. After repeating it around ten times——

——*Piron*♪

“Oh”

This sound... has the contracted beast that the Fire God sent arrived?

CHAPTER 54

MAN-EATING LION

I heard an electric sound just like when Feat and Bolt came, a big animal appeared in my field of vision and then it approached me.

“Haa!?”

...Surely... not?

A big lion with red fur has appeared in front of me.

Elephant size? Ah but, I have never seen an elephant up close so I can't say for sure. But, it would be at least such size.

Status

【Name】

【Race】 Scarlet King Leo (Takumi's Contracted beast)

【Age】 7

【Level】 33

【Skills】

Fire Magic | Claw Slash | Roar | Charge | Crush

Shrink | Night Vision | Presence Detection

Uwaa~... an outrageous animal has turned up.

When I immediately check using appraisal, it's without a doubt the contracted beast that the Flame God-sama has sent for me.

Scarlet King Leo is an S-Rank monster. Moreover, it's ferocious monster often called with names such as [Man-Eating Lion], [Bloodthirsty Lion] or [Red Devil].

I have nothing to criticize about its fighting power, but... this, I can't possibly take it along?

No matter how you look, isn't it a target of fear?

“You have been sent by the Fire God-sama, right?”

[Garuru]

Un, just a little purr is so powerful because of its size.

“Ah~ Best regards. Umm, right... Vector. You are Vector”

[Garu]

Is he happy? It looks fierce, but isn't it unexpectedly affable?

“Ah~ Vector. Could you become smaller? I can't see your face like this”

[Garu]

When I said so, Vector shone slightly and turned into a large-breed dog size lion.

A~... Vector's appearances are very characteristic so even though he became the size of a large dog, he's still a red lion.

...This, won't it be revealed right away that he's Scarlet King Leo even though he became small?

“ “Vector~?” “

[Garu]

Before I noticed, Allen and Elena approached Vector. Not only the children, even the senior contracted beast came near.

“Allen, Elena. Vector is also one of our children starting today. Get along well~”

“ “Un” “

“Joule, Feat, and Bolt too. It's our new companion. Be good to each other~”

[Wafu] [Gau] [Pii]

Putting aside the appearances, I prepare a collar for Vector at once. Would a matching one with Joule and others alright?



When I got out of the sea, I fixed our soaking wet appearances with life magic's [Washing] and [Dry].

After that I prepared the magic tools for Vector—A similar collar and bracelet Joule and Feat have.

“Here comes~ There~”

[Wafu]

“Here as well~ There~”

[Gau]

Vector became completely familiar with everyone and begun to play on the sandy beach.

Right now, Allen and Elena are throwing balls made of wood, and the contracted beasts are fetching them.

“Vector too~”

“Here comes~”

[Garu]

After Joule's and Feat's turn, it was Vector's turn next. But—

“ “Are~?” “

“O, oi? Vector, where are you going~?”

Vector went past the thrown ball and started vigorously running. And then, he suddenly disappeared from my sight.

Should I chase after him? While thinking so, Vector immediately returned.

“.....?”

N? Vector is holding something in his mouth... Wwha!!?

“Uwa! Vector. What’s that in your mouth!?”

Vector came with a person in his mouth.

It’s a woman. Vector holds a woman by the nape of her neck and running while dragging her body along.

When seeing from afar, I thought it was blood because I saw red. However, it wasn’t blood, but her long red hair.

Don’t startle me like that... I thought for a moment that Vector had bitten a person to death.

When Vector returned to my side, *goron*, he dropped the person in his mouth on the ground.

“He, hey! Are you all right!?”

I confirm the woman’s safety in a panic.

There was no response when I shook with her. It’s no doubt that she’s alive, but... has she blacked out?

“.....Zzz”

No, wrong... she’s sleeping... huh...

“ “Sleeping~?” “

“...Seems like it”

Munyamunya, I can hear a faint sleeper’s breath. How can she sleep so soundly in such

situation?

This, is she really just sleeping? But, I don't see any external wounds~

“Uu... hungry...”

...Moreover, it appears that she's hungry. How carefree~

First of all, let's confirm her status——

Status

【Name】 Vivian

【Race】 Demon (Vampire)

【Occupation】 Operative

【Age】 147

【Level】 54

【Skills】

Dagger Technique | Throwing

Darkness Magic | Life Magic

Dismantling | Fathom | Concealment | Leap

Stealthy Steps | Night vision

Lockpicking | Trap Disarm | Compounding

Magic Attack Resistance | Abnormal Status Resistance

【Titles】

Red Rose Princess

Truly startling contents.

Rather, she's a demon! Moreover, a vampire!

Demons on Aetherdia have the same treatment as the coexisting Elves and Dwarves. Hostile against humans or worshipping Maou that wants to destroy the world... they are not such beings. There are just fewer in numbers than other races while living longer lives.

At a glance, this person is no different from a human. Moreover, she seems to be of the same generation as me, yet she's 147 years old. How long was the life span of vampire again? Were they able to easily live past a millennium?

Her skill composition is incredible!

It may be just my imagination, but her skills are as if an assassination was her family business. She's actually an operative.

"Vector, was this person collapsed over there?"

[Garu]

"I see"

Vector purred proudly for some reason. He probably tried to give a helping hand.

"But, Vector. Dragging along is no good. This is a sandy beach, you could have injured her"

[Garu~n...]

Vector is obviously disheartened.

"N, no, I'm not angry. Be more careful next time, okay?"

[Garu!]

I'm not angry, but I must discipline him, so he doesn't go around picking up strange things. I thought such.

Nevertheless, what to do about this person...

—Guu~~~

.....

It's almost noon, shall I prepare the lunch~

The meal would get covered with sand here so let's move somewhere else first...

CHAPTER 55

REVENGE

This happened a few days after arriving at the town of Shirin.

“Excuse me”

“Ou, welcome”

“I heard you sell white wheat here, do you have it?”

“White wheat? We have it”

Right. White wheat! Today, I have come to purchase rice.

White wheat is not popular, so people who know of it and stores that sell it are few, so I had troubles finding it. I visited a store from a store and finally found it.

I got onigiri and boiled rice from Syl, but it wasn't that much. I'm glad I could find it before running out.

I don't dislike bread, but as expected, as a Japanese, I want to regularly eat rice.

“What Niisan, you keep cattle?”

“No. That's not the case, but can I purchase it?”

“Ou. That's no problem. I will bring it, wait a moment”

As expected, it appears that White wheat does not have any other use than feeding the domestic animals. Therefore, rather than saying that I'm going to “eat it” and being looked at with strange eyes, it's better to deceive somehow.

The shopkeeper brought a jute bag with White wheat from inside the store. From the looks of it, it's about five kg.

“Is this alright?”

When I confirm the bag contents, it's indeed a rice!

Neatly polished white grains of rice are inside the bag. I imagined it would have rice husks, or it would not be unpolished, but it's unexpectedly in a good bearing.

This can be used immediately.

"I would like a little more, but do you have more?"

"I don't mind. How much would you like?"

"...How much are you selling?"

If it can be bought, I want to secure rather a lot.

Because there's no quality improvement, I think that the taste will be less than that of Japan's rice, but it's better than life without rice.

Even if it's not good to eat as white rice, depending on the seasonings, risotto or Chinese fried rice should be no problem.

"We have currently four bags in the store altogether. There's no problem selling all of it. We would have to stock up for more which would take time"

Four bags... around twenty kg, huh.

"If there's no problem selling them, I will purchase all four bags"

"Ooh, I alright. I will carry them out"

I buy out all White wheat from the store and leave the store chuckling to myself.



“Now then, since there’s no rice cooker, it’s the pot. Can I do it well, I wonder...”

I started preparing outside the city to try making rice with White wheat.

—Piron♪

N?

Before I even tried to start to cook the rice, I heard an electrical sound inside my head.

“It’s Syl, isn’t it?... [Open]”

When I opened the menu screen, a new item has appeared on the item list.

“Ooh, this is!”

Rice cooker! A rice cooker that uses fire magic stone instead of electrical outlets has been delivered to me. Usage is the same as the electrical one, insert rice and water and switch on! It appears to automatically stop when the rice is done.

It seems that it can’t retain the warmth because it’s just a tool to cook, but this is still wonderful.

Gratitude to Syl! Thank you!!

After immediately taking it out of [Infinite Storage] and using it, the rice was done in ten minutes. It’s faster than fast cooking! Very wonderful!

“Hot... ngu”

I tried eating the cooked rice right away.

Ah, it tastes normal. It won’t be a problem using it like white rice.

“Allen, Elena. Ahh~”

Allen and Elena were fixedly *jii*~... staring at me, so when I presented the spoon with rice in front of them, the two *pakan* opened their mouths. They look like little chicks wanting to get fed.

When I put the rice in each's mouth, the two *mogumogu* savor the taste.

"How is it?"

"... Delish~" "

"I see. I'm glad"

Allen and Elena smile slightly.

I think that I'm really glad that rice suits the two's tastes. I would prepare something different for them if they didn't like it, but as expected, I would be a little sad if they didn't like rice.

Now then, shall I make the remaining rice into easy to eat onigiri?

However, there's no nori. Moreover, I'm worried that the salt won't hold it together, so I'd like to at least use as a garnish... garnish, huh... because I have not obtained ingredients for seafood yet, I don't have salmon or cod... for the same reason okaka, kombu, and seaweed can't be cooked.

Tuna-mayo... I don't have tuna. Rather, how do you prepare tuna? Soak the tuna fillet in oil and heat at a low temperature? Let's try after getting my hands on tuna.

Tenmusu? Again... shrimps are also ingredients from the sea...

Thinking like this, there are many ingredients of the sea used with rice, aren't there~

Other than sea... umeboshi? I do have plum-like fruit, but it's no umeboshi.

Leaf mustard? I have something resembling which it could be made from, but I'm bad at it so it's rejected.

I need to prepare chicken while cooking rice. It's not possible this time, but the ingredients are likely to gather, so let's try next time.

Muu~ What else is thereee? I unexpectedly can't remember...



In the end, I had no choice, but to preserve the rice in the [Infinite Storage] that day. Therefore, with the ingredients I have bought at the harbor's morning market, I will take my revenge!

What I'm preparing is a grilled salmon-like fish.

I made a fake tuna-mayo with a tinge of red slices of tuna-like fish. I think it turned out quite well.

The rest is seasoned with minced kombu and soy sauce. I finely chopped the katsuobushi in order to prepare okaka.

I have also prepared a nori-looking seaweed. First, I washed the seaweed well, finely chopped it, stretched it thin and flat, removed the moisture with water magic, and dried it using life magic's [Dry].

The texture was a little rough, but it turned out to be a proper nori. You can do it if you try!

Now then, let's cook the rice. I prepared the ingredients and nori. Ah, also the salt. I splurged a little and bought the best salt.

Now then, all that's left is to shape it!

"Yosh, it's done!"

After shaping a large amount of onigiri, I made a soup using the Sand Crab's legs.

"Everyone~ The meal is done~"

" "Mea~l" "

[Kyan] [Na~] [Pii] [Garu]

To my call, the children were playing slightly further away, rushed back all at once.

Because I don't know when Vivian-san will wake up, I had Joule and Feat turn into their small forms and gave up on Bolt's and Vector's situation.

I'm thinking of deceiving by saying that I contracted them when they were weakened or when they were small.

“...Zzz... N? Meal!?”

While thinking so, Vivian-san has awakened.

“Meal. Where is the meal~?”

Somehow... although beauty, she feels like a woman with a plenty of unfortunates...

CHAPTER 56

REGRETTABLE BEAUTY

“Itadakima~su”

[Kyan] [Na~] [Pii] [Garu]

Allen and Elena began eating the onigiri and soup slowly on the plates I served in front of them after doing before meal manners.

The Contracted beasts properly imitated the two and begun eating.

When I saw everyone start to eat, I offered onigiri and soup to Vivian-san who was enviously looking at the children.

“Is that okay!? Wa~ Itadakimasu!”

Because the children started eating first, Vivian-san was able to judge that onigiri is food, but “I wonder what this is...” she started eating after hesitating. However, after two, three bites, she started stuffing her cheeks in a trance.

“Hagu, hagu... ngun, gu...”

She offered the onigiri to her stomach with a great vigor. Baku, baku, baku, such sound effects could be heard.

“Allen, Elena. These are yours, so eat slowly, okay?”

It appears Allen and Elena thought that the unrestricted Vivian-san would eat even their shares. They sped up their eating speed in a hurry.

But, the two became relieved after my caution and nodded while chewing with stuffed cheeks, restoring their pace of eating.

“By the way, it seems you collapsed because of hunger, but what happened?”

“Ngu! Ngun, gu!”

“No... it’s fine after you finish eating...”

“Ngu!”

When I asked what happened, Vivian-san started talking with her mouth crammed with onigiri.

I have no idea what she’s saying, her manners are bad. Because it’s no good for Allen and Elena to imitate her, I decided to talk after the meal.

Then, Vivian-san resumed eating silently.

Nonetheless, she can eat well...

“Iya~ I’m stuffed~ Thank you for the meal”

The massive amount of onigiri disappeared just like that.

“Ah, I’m called Vivian. Vivi or Vivian, call me however you like. Incidentally, what was that from a little while ago~ I have never eaten something like that~”

“Yeah, it’s white wheat cooked in water”

“White wheat, is it? That feed for domestic animals?”

Ah, I did it now... rice on Aetherdia is used as feed for domestic animals, isn’t it? I completely forgot.

“I’m sorry. Because we eat White White as everyday meals in my hometown, I ended up offering it to you without thinking. Have I offended you?”

“No, no. It was delicious, so there’s no problem. Nevertheless, the white wheat, huh~ I have no idea it was something so delicious~”

Even after hearing about the white wheat, Vivian-san wasn’t offended. Rather, she seems to have liked it. I’m glad...

I have to be more careful to what I offer to people from now on. Some people would misunderstand or be insulted, after all.

“Iya~ Oniisan is skilled at cooking, aren’t you~ Are? Oniisan? Or is it Papa-san?”

Before I noticed, Vivian-san was talking to Allen and Elena.

“...? Onii~chan” “

Allen and Elena who should not have any vigilance towards Vivian-san hesitated for a moment and answered.

...I wonder what happened?

Since Vivian-san is here, I shouldn’t haste to confirm. I must not forget to check later.

“So it was Oniisan~ But, the reaction was bad, wasn’t it~ Are you perhaps, in fact, Papa-san?”

“I’m the elder brother...”

It seems Vivian-san noticed Allen and Elena hesitating too.

Rather, what is she thinking, this person...

“I’m sorry~ People’s secrets are my favorite food! Uncovering hidden things is fun, isn’t it~”

“...”

Vivian-san——no, just Vivian, should be fine now...

Vivian notices my “amazement” and starts speaking even more.

I don’t think it can be called impressive, but maa, it’s most likely”Hobby=Work”in her case.

“So, why did you collapse, Vivian?”

“Iya~ I wonder why?”

“...Don’t ask me”

...This person, is she playing around?

“Umm, umm... ah, that’s right! I have remembered! I have moved out of the town, but I forgot to purchase food. That’s why I endured on the local procurement, but there was no harvest for the past two, three days...”

“When you notice you don’t have food, return to the town!”

“Ooh! That’s certainly true. Iya~ I will somehow manage~ I thought so and didn’t pay further attention to it!”

“ ... ”

“Right, right, I have to report in Albert Town for my work, but where is this?”

“...Here is nearby of the town of Bailey”

“Aree?”

Albert Town is in the east of Bailey, it’s a town in the south of the royal capital.

I don’t know which town Vivian has departed from, but if she didn’t cross the sea on a ship from a foreign country, being in Bailey’s surroundings is strange.

“How strange? Maa but, I still have plenty of time to report, so it will be okay! Right, right, this time’s job was too easy~ I had to do a background investigation on the marriage partner of a certain noble lady, but the target of the investigation was a man. Surprisingly, he kept a commoner’s daughter in the house! That was so impressive~ He had no intention to hide it. The story came out just after asking a servant a little. Honestly, I didn’t even have to infiltrate as a seravant~”

No, I have not asked about the contents of your work... why have you stuck out your tongue out after talking!

“Oops, even though I have time to report, I shouldn’t take it too slow, right? Then, I’m going okay~ Ah, right. This is my thanks for the meal”

Vivian who suddenly stood unfastened the bag on her waist and presented me several small bottles filled with some liquids.

“You don’t have to mind it really”

“No, no, please accept it”

Vivan forcibly pushed the small bottles in my hands.

...I wonder what this is?

【Drops of Crimson Rose】

A vampire specially made aphrodisiac.

Immediate effect. The effect lasts approximately four to five hours.

Excellent product with no side effects. Women exclusive use.

【Drops of White Rose】

A vampire specially made energy drug.

Immediate effect. The effect lasts approximately four to five hours.

Excellent product with no side effects. Men exclusive use.

Wwha!!?

I got astonished after appraising the small bottles.

“Hey! This!!”

“Ah, looks like you know what kind of medicine it is. This is a medicine I made, but the effect is exceptional, it’s quite popular~ Please, try it by all means. Njaa, thank you for the meal~”

“Oi, wait!”

Vivian departed with quick movements.

“ “Gone~?” “

“Yeah...”

Seriously, what’s with that fellow... besides, what am I supposed to do with this...

I, haa... sigh and store the small bottles in the [Infinite Storage]. I have decided to hoard it in the [Infinite Storage] as it is.

“ “... Onii~chan” “

“What is it?”

“ “What is Papa~? “ “

“Eh?”

When I hang down my head dejectedly, Allen and Elena asks me a surprising question. Surely not... but... perhaps...?

“...Umm, Allen, Elena, do you know who a father or Otousan is?”

Allen and Elena shake their heads to my question.

Acha~... these two don’t know about something like family... so this is why they hesitated to Vivian’s question...

I see, well, of course, ~ They had no one to teach them, so they don’t know~

I thought the two knew because they called me”Onii~chan”as if it was natural.

Ah, I see. The towns’ people——especially Obaasan from the inn or the stores called out to Allen and Elena, but they also asked things such as”Are you going out with your Oniichan?”or”Oniisan, how about this for the children?”many times. Allen and Elena who heard that ended up calling me Oniichan...

“...Umm, Papa is Otousan and that’s——”

First of all, I decided to not teach them only about Otousan, but also about Okaasan and siblings.

However, explaining is unexpectedly much harder than I thought...

CHAPTER 57

UNDISCOVERED UPROAR

When we returned to the town from the sea, we made our way to the Adventurer's Guild.

In order to learn about the materials around this town and to receive gathering requests of the materials, we have on hand.

I'm not troubled about money, but we receive requests regularly. You see, there is qualification invalidation term, right? Although I have three years to spare until the term, I would like to get into a habit of receiving requests.

After entering the guild, I first went to the requesting board, picked up a few requests after checking my materials and the requested materials and then lined up in the reception queue.

As it's already evening, there are plenty of adventurers who have returned from work.

"Hello. Are you here to request a job?"

When my turn came, the receptionist woman greeted me. Apparently, I don't look like an adventurer but someone who came to find a job... Well, it can't be helped.

I present my guild card at the counter.

"No. I'd like to accept this request"

"I'm sorry. So you were an adventurer. I have not seen you here before"

"I have just arrived at this town the other day"

"Is that so? Then, I will hold on this for a moment"

When the receptionist woman received the guild card, she started operating the crystal plate.

While she works, I take out the materials written on the requests and line them up on the counter.

“Eh! A-rank!?”

“Well, more or less...”

“Pardon my rudeness. Are all these materials matching the requests?”

“Yes, I have them all”

“I will verify”

The receptionist woman was surprised that I was an A-rank, but she immediately started checking the material. But, the receptionist woman who begun to work suddenly loudly shouted.

“Kyaa———!!!”

“!?”

“ “Hiyaa” “

I was startled by her shriek like voice. Allen and Elena got startled as well as they cling to my leg.

“D, dungeon~! Y, you have discovered a new dungeon!?”

“Haa!?”

To my surprise, the receptionist woman shouted again.

It appears that she happen to see my 【Dungeon record】 while processing the material.

Still, what did she just say? New dungeon?

We have been only in the [Dungeon fo Earth] in Shirin and the [Dungeon of Ripples] which we went into a few days ago.

—That means, the Dungeon of Ripples was an undiscovered dungeon...

There are 108 dungeons on Aetherdia.

I know about all dungeons, but I am no aware which are publicly known.

I should have checked it...

We have unconsciously stepped into an undiscovered dungeon, and the trace was left listed on the guild card...

Is this bad?... No, it's all right. I can deceive!

The entrance was in the sea, but it's quite easy to discover when diving... un, it will be alright.

[We accidentally found it when playing in the sea] Let's go with that!

It's true anyway that we found it accidentally while swimming in the sea.

"Karen, what is it about a new dungeon?"

"T, this gentleman's 【Dungeon record】 has [53rd Dungeon "Ripples"] entry recorded on it~"

"What!? —T, this is!"

When a male guild staff member run up to the receptionist woman—Karen-san, he raised his voice in surprise.

Seeing the man's reaction, the other staff members gathered around, infecting the guild with noise.

Aah~... even the adventurers in the guild have noticed now...

"Takumi-sama, is it really a dungeon!?"

"...?"

...Eh? What's that, what does she mean?

"You fool, Karen! What are you saying! It's naturally a dungeon since it's listed on the guild card!!"

"It might not be a dungeon" worry?

No, in the first place, I can't orally report the discovery of a new dungeon.

By seeing it recorded on the guild card, the doubts that would float around will disappear.

Rather, this is more or less a personal information, isn't it? I would like them to stop shouting so loudly, though... where did the information concealment go?

"However, Shawn-san! Discovering a new dungeon is something very important"

"I know how important it is more than you!"

"But, but~"

"Karen, you stay quiet! What you are saying is unreasonable!"

"No, no, Shawn-san's tension is ridiculous?"

Ah~ ... can I already go? It's fine, right?

Allen and Elena are withering under the surrounding's attention...

First of all, let's clean up the things I took ou—

"W, wait a moment, please! What are you doing!?"

Tsk! She noticed. I thought about stealthily escaping, but Karen-san has noticed...

"I'm leaving. Ah, return my guild card, please"

"Wha!! What are you doing! You can't do that!"

Because I couldn't escape, I seriously told my intentions. Karen-san holds my guild card in her hands, not willing to return it.

I'm hesitant to leave behind my ID, but... shall I go as I am?

—I thought such, but before I noticed, the people that gathered around formed a barricade.

Although they have a reasonable distance, because they are all men with good builds, breaking through would be difficult.

Allen and Elena wither because of surroundings even more... no, they are frightened.

I look at Karen-san while stroking Allen's and Elena's shoulder to soothe them.

"Why can't I leave?"

“Why, you ask... I, I mean, you have discovered a new dungeon? You have to tell us all about it!”

“Don’t wanna”

“Eh!”

“Although it’s a thing to be surprised about, I don’t want to talk to someone who irresponsibly shouts someone’s personal information”

“Eeeh!?”

There’s no doubt that **【Dungeon record】** is personal information. And yet, the staff which have the obligation to conceal it shouted out loud its contents.

People who were in the guild have totally paid attention to what was said and already found out about the new dungeon.

Because of my remark of not wanting to tell the guild, the people around started talking things such as “Does he plans to monopolize it?” or “No, he even had the first taste...”.

Disclosing personal information without the consent of the person in question. N~...

“Or did the rule of guild staff member’s [Can’t reveal personal information to others] got annulled without my knowing?”

“...Ugu”

Hearing my words, Karen-san’s face gradually turned blue.

There’s no way such important rule got abolished. I’m sure Karen-san made a violation of her duties.

The male staff member—Shawn-san and other staff members made awkward expressions as well.

They have not rebuked Karen-san, they instead take advantage and rode on the opportunity with her.

Regarding that dungeon, it won’t be a problem even if it gets exposed—rather, I am

troubled that it was exposed in this way, it's a serious situation.

For instance, if it were "Allen and Elena captured advanced level dungeon"... she would certainly be surprised, right? At that time, the two would get exposed and place them in a troublesome situation.

It's just an example, but it may certainly happen one day...

Rather, 【Request record】 has already record of transaction of Gaya Forest's materials. She has probably not looked properly yet, but it would be a noise making record when she does.

I have to keep it in control before that!

"What is this ruckus!!"

" "Gu, guild master!!" "

In the meanwhile, overhearing the ruckus, a solidly build man in his fifties walks from the inner part of the guild. He has a former adventurer feeling around him?

He appears to be the guild master here.

CHAPTER 58

APOLOGY AND INFORMATION PROVISION

“Are you the cause of the ruckus?”

The guild master clearly said that while looking at me.

Well, I’m confronting the staff members, and other adventurers are surrounding me. It can’t be helped that I’m seen like that.

“You might say that I’m the cause, but I’m not the one who started it”

“What do you mean?”

“It started because these staff members shouted out loud our personal information”

“What!? Is that true!!”

At my complaint, the guild master vigorously turned towards his subordinates.

“Ah... umm...”

“What is it! Speak clearly!!”

“B, because there was information about a new dungeon, I unconsciously screamed out!! I’m terribly sorry!!”

Karen-san frightened by the guild master’s angry voice reported about the dungeon while bowing down.

“What!?... Is that story true?”

“Ye, yes. It’s certainly stated in this person’s 【Dungeon record】 ”

“Which is it?”

“This one~”

Oi, guild master. You shouldn't be confirming 【Dungeon record】 in this situation...

“So, where is this dungeon?”

“That is... umm... he doesn't want to tell...”

“...Is that so? Why?”

“Therefore!! Please don't divert the problem. I'm not saying that I don't want to tell the location of the dungeon. I just don't want to tell it to an organization that discloses personal information!!”

Because the discussion seemed to go off track, I immediately argued vehemently. Seriously, I would like you not to forget that!

[...]

All the staff members are silent.

“Umm, you see... that...”

“Anyhow, lead me to a separate room first please!”

“That's right, sorry. Could you follow to my office?”

The guild master shows me to his office while awkwardly scratching his cheek.

Haa... let's go for now...

Ah~ Even though I came to the guild in order to sell materials, thinking it would be immediately over... the ruckus took more time than was planned.

It's almost time for a meal~ Rather than reporting the dungeon, Allen's and Elena's meal is more important...

However, it doesn't look like I will be able to leave without reporting. Will I be able to leave faster if I report this quickly?

Haa...



We were guided to the guild master's office.

Our fellow travelers include guild master, Karen-san and another three staff members.

"First of all, including me, our staff members want to apologize"

" ""We are sorry" ""

When we settle in the office's sofa, the guild master and the staff members give words of apology simultaneously.

"Even if it was a discovery of a new dungeon, that remark in such place was absurd. I'm really sorry"

They really seemed to think they were at fault and apologized sincerely.

"I would like to hear the details properly later, but... that, um..."

"Suspension or salary cut, is it?"

"...Yeah, that's right. Would be asking to pardon the dismissal too much as expected?"

"I don't care. I would just like to ask you not to disclose personal information next time"

"Of course. I will teach them properly"

When I accept, Karen-san was obviously relieved.

As for me, as long as the information management is solid, I don't mind using the guild policy for the treatment of staff. I'd like to avoid awkward relations with the guild. I plan to use the guild in the future as well.

At any rate, since it's impossible to hide the information that has flowed, it would be better to sell as much kindness to the guild as possible.

Well, I won't forgive them next time, though!

"Ah~ Then..."

“The dungeon, is it?”

“That’s right. In a case that a new dungeon was discovered... since the location is clearly indicated on the guild card this time, the feudal lord would be notified about the discovery, he would dispatch his people, and those will confirm the location with the guild”

Hee~ The feudal lord is immediately notified about a new dungeon~

But, if the discoverer didn’t have a guild card, that discoverer would be the only evidence, so it seems that the guild would investigate before notifying the feudal lord.

“You will be rewarded with a prize if the country officially recognizes it. Of course, if you present the guild with information about the dungeon, you will also receive a reward from the guild”

Since the existence of the dungeon has already spread, there’s no need to hesitate. If I hide things, I would get entangled with some weird fellows.

Well, I don’t really care about the prize from the country, though...

“I understand. I will tell you”

“Really!”

“Yes. The dungeon is [53rd “Ripples”]. It’s an intermediate difficulty dungeon with 30 floors. It appears to be a dungeon of a water attribute

“Water attribute!”

I report the basic information first. Most of it is recorded on the guild card, so I think anyone would understand after looking, but just in case.

About the attribute, I’m pretty sure it’s “water.”

“The place is along the coast, east side of the town. Do you know of the largish reef in the sea about ten minutes by foot from the shore?”

“Yeah. It’s the one not far away from the beach, right?”

“Yes, that’s right”

Whether because it's close to the town, guild master immediately grasped the location.

"There is an entrance to the dungeon in that rock"

"What!?"

"Eh?"

"This close!?"

"No way..."

Hearing about the entrance to the dungeon in the reef, the guild staff were taken aback by its closeness.

Because it had not been discovered so far, I thought it was in a place where people could not go.

"Incidentally, the entrance is in the sea"

"What a thing..."

Everyone hangs their heads this time. They are all people with rich reactions...

"Yeah, also, it's about 50 meters of a complete channel to the entrance. If you'd like to confirm, it would be necessary for me to accompany you"

"What?"

"Because there's no place to take a breath, you can only advance while holding it. If you can't prepare a necessary magic tool, you better choose the right person to investigate"

[...]

I think that the person who would go for the investigation would be someone who is used to move around, but if by chance it's a person with an office job, he wouldn't be able to follow.

“How did you enter?”

“I have confidence in my lung capacity”

“I, is that so...”

Because it's not like the mermaid bracelet is not around at all, it should be all right to tell about it, but I decided to keep it hidden for the time being. I would be troubled if they asked the source, after all.

“...Takumi-san is A-rank, after all. That much surely wouldn't be trouble”

“ “A-rank!?” “

When Karen-san muttered in admiration, other members reacted.

Yeah, they weren't aware of my rank. However, guild master... didn't you see the crystal as well? Well, having his eyes nailed on the 【Dungeon record】 it's probably natural that he didn't notice...

I was slightly amazed and let out a sigh.

“ “Onii~chan, hungry~” “

Allen and Elena interrupt the conversation by pulling on my clothes and stating their hunger.

“I'm sorry~ We have already finished, shall we go for a meal?”

“ “Un” “

“Well then, it's all right to end the story about the dungeon here, isn't it?”

I decided to cut off the discussion immediately. Fortunately, I have finished providing the minimum necessary information.

“Well then, we will excuse ourselves here. Allen, Elena, let's go~”

“ “Ye~s” “

“Eh? Wai... oi!?”

I have heard the guild master trying to stop me, but I ignored that and promptly left the office with Allen and Elena.

When I returned to the guild hall, the adventurers who heard about the dungeon were waiting. Because I wouldn't like to be caught by those people, I told them "I had told the guild the location of the dungeon, so please ask them".

Would it be all right for now like this?

Now then, the meal, the meal. Where shall we have the dinner?

CHAPTER 59

FEUDAL LORD OF BAILEY

The next day.

After eating breakfast in the dining room of the inn, we were relaxing in the room.

Then, the sub master of the Adventurer's Guild came to visit.

Apparently, they went to the dungeon overnight or early in the morning and seemed to have finished checking.

The dungeon is nearby after all. Just going to take a look shouldn't take much time.

And they are on their way to report to the feudal lord now. It seems they have applied for an appointment yesterday and decided on meeting this morning.

So, we were told to go along."Why me as well?"when I asked,"What is the discoverer asking about!!"I was scolded.

No, I wasn't aware I have to accompany you.

That being the case, we have arrived at the lord's mansion.

Well, I really didn't feel like resisting and thought that saying hello to the feudal lord might not be bad, so I went along obediently, though.

Thus, after being shown to a room and told to wait, a middle-aged man in his thirties along with an elderly man soon entered the room.

I have not used appraisal, but judging by the garments, the young man looks more like the Feudal Lord-sama. But this person, haven't I seen him before somewhere...

"You are Takumi-san? How do you do? Cedric Risner is my name"

"Eh?... Risner?"

Feudal Lord-sama speaks as if he knew about me.

I have not met him before, but his surname is Risner. And his silver hair and grayish blue eyes, perhaps...?

“Oya? Have you not heard from Isaac?”

“...Acquaintances, only”

“That fellow again... I’m really sorry for my younger brother. He surely kept silent to surprise you”

Younger brother!!

That means this Feudal Lord-sama is Shirin’s Knights Order’s Risner-sama’s oniisan!

Ah, I see. That’s why Risner-sama wrote me a letter of introduction when I told him that I’m going to Bailey~

I was a little bit surprised that Risner-sama was the one who wrote me the letter of introduction since Derrick-sama and Wald-sama who are of a high peerage rank, and the advisor of the order Callan-sama were there.

At that time, I simply thought that he was just writing to someone he knows.

I thought that Risner-sama had a good relationship with the Feudal Lord-sama of Bailey judging by his way of speech... but, to think they were family...

If they are relatives, Risner-sama was the most suitable to write the letter of introduction, wasn’t he?

“In Shirin, Risner-sama... I am indebted to Isaac-sama very much”

“No, no, it was in a letter, but I inquired about Takumi-san. You are Isaac’s lifesaver. Thank you very much for helping my brother”

“Ah, raise your head please!!”

I was surprised at him suddenly lowering his head right after greeting me. I hurry up and stop Oniisan.

“It is I who should thank Risner-sama... ah~ I’m sorry. Is it alright to call you Cedric-sama?”

Ah~ ... it would be confusing calling both brothers Risner-sama... however, calling him by his name without permission would be impolite. First, let’s ask for permission...

“Yes, certainly. Honorifics are unnecessary too”

“No, that much is...”

“Then, let’s settle on “san.” Of course, I don’t mind if you call Isaac that way as well. I give you permission as his elder brother”

“No, but...”

“Let’s get along”

He has a gentle smile, but an overbearing way of calling has been decided. Un, it doesn’t seem that I will be able to refuse.

But, it would be impossible without honorifics, so please forgive me for adding “san.”

“I was under Isaac-san’s care. I had also received a letter of introduction when leaving Shirin. It’s a little late, but this is the letter”

It’s different from my plan, but I hand over the letter I got from Isaac-san to Cedric-san.

“That’s right, that! I’ve heard from Isaac that he gave you a letter of introduction, so when you arrived at this town, I thought you would immediately visit me, you know?”

“Are? He certainly asked me to visit you, but... I didn’t have any plans on receiving a favor, you know?”

Just receiving aid would make me feel awkward and I had no plans on making things difficult for him.

“Eh?”

“N?”

Are we misunderstanding something...?

“...Umm, let’s rely on him if something occurs... is what you were thinking?”

“...Well, you could say that”

I feel like I'm counting on the noble's authority, but that's really it when speaking frankly... helping when in trouble. When there's really, really no other way. I thought to ask for help only then.

"...Isaac that fellow"

It seems that Isaac-san has told Cedric-san something different.

Isaac-san... what have you told him...

"May I ask what Isaac-san has written in the letter?"

"Yes. About the happenings in Shirin, Takumi-san's arrival to Bailey, and he asked me to lend you a hand. Those were the contents"

Indeed, those contents make it seem as if it has already been decided that I would come to visit the feudal lord.

...Are? Perhaps... did I mistake the meaning behind the letter of introduction?

Regardless of what I plan on doing, I should have visited here first, or something...?

Uwa~ have I done it...

"There was a report from the gatekeeper that Takumi-san has arrived, but that was the reason you weren't coming, I see"

"...Eh?"

Wait a minute!

While I was worried about the interpretation of the letter of introduction, Cedric-san said something that can't be disregarded.

"Cedric-san, what do you mean by the gatekeeper's report..."

"I had notified the gatekeepers to let me know when Takumi-san arrives in the town immediately"

Wow. Cedric-san, you have given such orders...

“That was futile as well, though”

“...I’m sorry”

“No, no. I was selfishly waiting so don’t mind it. But that being the case, I would have been nice if you visited. Oh yeah, Takumi-san made a new bread in Shirin and spread it, right? Actually, it was also written in Isaac’s letter, and because a detailed recipe wasn’t necessary, it has already spread through our town”

“Ah, yes. I saw it selling in a shop”

It was only jam buns, and bread with dried fruit and nuts mixed in, but as fruits and nuts are abundant here, the variety definitely increased.

“Takumi-san. If possible, won’t you please tell me the recipes of the things called Cream bread and Anpan? Of course, I will reward you”

“I would like to ask about this. A reward is not necessary. It’s just, about the shops, but...”

“I heard from Isaac about this as well. If there’s no fuss about the store, I will introduce it to a wholesale store that sells bread to our house, the other stores will be properly supported by the Risner house”

Because Allen and Elena love Cream bread, I want to make it efficient to replenish. That’s why I intended to have it made in a shop somewhere.

Regarding the custard cream, I think I’m willing to publish the recipe, but that would make it difficult to Road-san, wouldn’t it~ I should take this proposal from Cedric-san and teach him how to manage the recipe safely, right?

As for the red bean paste, you just need to boil sweet red legume, so I thought it would appear in other shops even without the recipe, but... that doesn’t seem to be the case.

“I’m fine with a store that Cedric-san recommends”

“Ayy~ I’m looking forward to it. Isaac boasted in the letter how delicious it is, so I was extremely interested, you know?”

Eeh!? It's just a normal Cream bread and Anpan, you know? Isaac-san, why are you raising the hurdle that much!?

While Cedric-san and I are having such discusison——

“Umm~...”

“ “Ah” “

The sub master who was left behind flusteredly raised voice.

Un, Cedric-san and I completely forgot the sub master's existence.

SIDE STORY 1

FORTUNATE ADVENTURERS

Boy Adventurer • Ed PoV

The story of the young adventurers Takumi came across in the Dungeon of Earth.

My name is Ed. I finally came of an age a year ago and left with my childhood friends Brad and Jane towards the town of Shirin to become adventurers.

At first, the three of us were receiving requests for the gathering of medicinal plants and subjugation of F-ranked monsters.

It's life on an edge with no luxuries, though. Even though it's on edge, I also couldn't afford luxury back in the village, so there's not much change. Because I do what I wanted, I'm having much more fun than working in the fields.

After leading such live for a while, we met guys of the same age, Jin, and Sarah, who just became adventurers.

We formed a temporary party with them, became close friends while doing request together and decided to form an official party.

The party's name is [Eternal Bonds]. A party of three men and two women.

The five of us steadily handled low-rank requests and got recently promoted to E-rank. At that time, Brad proposed to challenge a dungeon soon since we became E-ranks. Conveniently, there's a low-grade dungeon near Shirin.

Furthermore, because we could make more income than by receiving low-rank requests, so there was no objection.

I was also looking forward to diving into the dungeons when I become E-rank, so... Brad's proposal was very timely.

Therefore, we decided to go to the dungeon the next day.



After going to the dungeon for the first time, we challenged it many more times, and we went in today as well.

We now can smoothly progress through the 1st to the 7th floor.

There are not many dangers in the 1st-7th floor of this dungeon, it's said that the difficulty increases from the 8th floor. That's why we usually stopped on the 7th floor.

But today is different.

Because we have arrived at the 7th floor so smoothly,"Why don't we try the 8th floor?"we have been caught up in the moment and decided to enter the 8th floor.

"Look! There's a hidden room here!"

"Seriously? Is there a treasure chest?"

"Sugoi, sugoi!"

While walking on the 8th floor, Jin discovered a hidden room.

There's a high possibility of a treasure chest in the hidden rooms. According to information, there might be potions inside. Finding a low-grade potion would be enough of a treasure for us. When such possibility arises, we get excited.

"Opening~"

With Brad in the lead, we excitedly opened the door of the hidden room we have discovered. However——

Is there not dozens of Wolves, Horn Rabbits, and Slicer Bats!

It's a trap!

Crap, crap, crap! This is impossible-!!!

"Hii~!"

"The hell is this!"

"R, run away-!"

We ran away at full speed. There's no way we can win against something like that!

We ran at speed on the path we came from.

“W, where to go next...”

“Right! It’s right!”

We must not make a mistake and take a wrong turn! It will be our end if we come to a dead end!

Just before turning right, I took a glance behind and saw a lot of monsters chasing after us.

Shit~ Are they not going to give up...

We should have turned back at the 7th floor as usual... I regret now.

“Ku...”

It became hard to breathe... it will be bad at this rate...

Just a little more. We will be saved if we descend one floor!

Monsters do not chase to another floor. I scold my legs to keep on running while thinking such.

He! People!? There’s are people!?

“Uwa———!! Please, run a~way!!”

I noticed people while desperately running and shouted in panic.

This is bad, he will get dragged into it at this rate. Even though I shouted while out of breath, the man who was there stopped for some reason.

W, why!? Why are you not running away even though I told you to!

“Wa, hey! What are you doing!?”

I want to run away quickly, but if we leave those people and escape, we will become criminals. My brain is in a state of panic, I instantly felt a chill.

“[Wind Cutter]”

At the exact moment I intended to drag them to escape, the man used magic.

The moment he fired the magic towards the monsters, a cloud of dust arose.

It was magic with incredible force. People who go to low-grade dungeons like this are not that powerful.

Even after such amazing magic, some monsters leaped out of the cloud of dust. But, before I noticed, two children standing next to the man started running.

The children kicked the monsters with smooth movements and easily cleaned up the monsters.

“Eeeeeeeeh——!!”

What are those children!? They are so strong I unconsciously shouted.

When all monsters were defeated, the man——Niisan, called out to us.

“We are terribly sorry!”

We panic and lower our heads in apology.

Monster scapegoating act. Although not intentional, we have committed a crime. If this person does an official report, we will be punished. My body is naturally trembling.

But, this person doesn't seem to want to accuse us, his voice didn't contain anger.

I'm relieved. And my trembling body grows weak.

I'm seriously glad this person is a good person~

If this person was a bad adventurer, he might have resorted to violence and even extort money from us. That would be the worst case scenario.

“ “Many~!” “

“Thank you. Are you not tired?”

“ “We al~right” “

The children who went to pick up the dropped items return while dragging a big bag. Adventurers who take children along are rare. This Niisan seems to be 1-2 years older than us, so they are his little brother and little sister? These children are certainly strong, but you see~ you don't normally bring children to the dungeon, right~

“ “Ah! There~” “

“N?”

“Uwaaa! A Poison Spider!!”

A poisonous spider monster. That fellow is dangerous. That fellow is stealthy, he would creep up to you before you notice and paralyze your body with its venom.

This guy is in the top 3 of the most dangerous monsters in this dungeon. I was told that it's absolutely necessary to purchase antidote for its venom.

Nevertheless, how lucky to notice it before it could creep on us.

“[Air Shot]”

Eeeeeh~!!

Niisan casually used magic and instantly killed the spider.

Certainly, Poison Spider is not a monster that strong. However, the Poison Spider's wariness is high, it would be difficult to injure it without range.

Even if we notice it... we have swords, spears, and knives, we don't have anyone to support us from range.

Even if there was someone who could use magic, we don't have anyone with shield, and there's not anyone who could scout. Speaking frankly, our party has poor balance.

This Niisan must have noticed after looking at our equipment. That's why Niisan proposed knife throwing. Even if we are adventures with no surplus of money, we can practice with stones, he said.

Certainly, we could easily practice like that, and it won't hurt our pockets. It's so innovative. I don't understand why I didn't notice that before.

“Ah, again~”

“Kita~”

Ge! There's another Poison Spider.

The children found a Poison Spider hanging from the ceiling again. Rather, how do they know?

For some reason, they pick up a fist-sized stone from the ground... and—

—*Dokon!*

[Eeeh!?!]

We all shout in shock.

When the children throw the stones, a loud noise resounds from the hit Poison Spider. And then, the Poison Spider falls from the ceiling.

Moreover, the Poison Spider is twitching on the ground. It's on the verge of death.

T, the children! The children this little brought down a Poison Spider!

I... no, no one among us can defeat a Poison Spider like that. And yet, children far younger than me accomplished it so easily...

It's a lie, right!?

I want this to be a dream. It wasn't mentioned, by all members must also be feeling like this.

We part with Niisan who advances to the next floor, and we carefully advance towards the entrance.

It's inevitable that Niisan and the children were the topics of our discussion on the way back.

“That was incredible, wasn't it?”

“Un. Incredible...”

That Niisan's magic was outrageous. He nearly brought down dozens of monsters with just single magic.

"Can I remember magic if I train?"

Jin mutters.

Magic, huh... magic is related to talent, but it's quite expensive to get guidance. But, it will be necessary to live as an adventurer from now on, right? Let's properly research when we return to the town.

"I, I wonder if should start practicing bow..."

Sarah also muttered.

That's right. It would be better if there was someone among us who could use the bow. Sarah's main weapon is a knife, so I think bow and knife would suit her battle style.

"I will do throwing practice! As that Niisan said, I will first increase my accuracy by throwing stones!"

It appears that Brad also found his new goal.

"Un, that is good. I will practice throwing together with you!"

We have safely grasped our situation and decided to face it. Even though it might be dangerous.

I noticed that we have been looking only ahead all this time.

That's right. It has no meaning if we die. We should take the time to forge ourselves to get stronger.

"We can meet that Niichan in Shirin, right? I would like to express gratitude some other time"

“Un, right”

“Ah! But we didn’t ask for his name!”

[Ah!]

Even though I wanted to thank him later, we forgot to ask his name.

“But, adventurers with such little children, stand out, won’t we find out if we ask around?”

It’s as Jane says. An adventurer who brings children with him is unusual. We might find out if we ask around in the guild.

“Which reminds me, he said the children’s names, didn’t he? Allen? And... Elena? Was it?”

“He did, he did”

We can meet again, right? When we meet, we must thank him properly!

When we returned to the town, we immediately found out Niisan’s name. It’s Takumi-san.

He was immediately identified when we asked about [Adventurer who’s taking care of two children].

It’s said that although they came to this town just recently, and Takumi-san and the children are quite famous.

We heard a “Rumor” from senpai adventurer about the children knocking down an arrogant adventurer.

Well, those who didn’t witness that in the dungeon wouldn’t believe, but you see... we thought that the rumor was the truth.

SIDE STORY 2

A CERTAIN RAINY DAY

A story that takes place a while after arriving in the town of Shirin.

I got used to the life in the town after some days.

When I got up in the morning and looked out from the inn's room, it was raining a lot outside.

“Ah~ It's raining today...”

“ “... Uu~” “

When I mutter such after seeing the weather, Allen and Elena were clearly feeling down.

As for why—Yesterday evening, before going to sleep, I have promised them “Let's outside the town to play tomorrow?”.

Allen and Elena were looking forward to that very much.

“ “Uu~” “

It's not like I'm at fault, but seeing them so dejected, it makes me feel guilty indeed.

N~...

“...It's just a light rain, will it be all right if we put overcoats?”

If worn properly, I wouldn't have to worry about them getting soaked.

“What to do? Do you want to go?”

“ “Go~!” “

Completely reversing their cloudy expressions, Allen and Elena cling to my legs with smiles.

“Yosh! Then, let’s eat the breakfast first!”

“ “Un!” “

The two still don’t show many expressions towards strangers, but they show their innocence when it’s only us.

I leave the room after eating breakfast with loosened cheeks.

After finished eating the breakfast in the dining room, we left the town completely covered in overcoats—we arrive at the meadow in the south of the town.

“ “Ukiya~” “

The moment we left the town, Allen and Elena started jumping into puddles with all their might.

“Don’t fall~”

“ “Ye~s” “

When thinking they would start running around, Allen and Elena suddenly crouched down.

N? Did they find something?

I crouch behind the two and look from above.

There, I saw a frog. Not a monster, but a palm-sized, ordinary frog.

“This is a frog”

“ “Frog~” “

It appears that Allen and Elena like the movements of the frog which jumps up and down.

“Pyonpyon”

“Ribbit, ribbit~”

The two chase after the jumping frog while imitating it.

Un, un, seeing them in such high spirits, it was worth it to come playing even if it's raining.

After chasing after the frog, the two move here and there at their fancy and survey the surroundings with curiosity.

“ “Onii~chan! Let's go there~” “

“Yes, yes”

After exploring the forest, they seem to want to return to the meadow near the town.
Ah, the rain has stopped too.

“Look, Allen, Elena. A rainbow has appeared”

When the sun appeared from the gap of the clouds, a big rainbow appeared in the sky.
I immediately tell Allen and Elena to look in the sky.

“Rainbow~ sugo~i”

“Rainbow~ pretty~”

Allen and Elena who see a rainbow for the first time are frolicking while pointing at the rainbow.

“ “Onii~chan, is this also a rainbow~?” “

“N?”

A rainbow... down below?

Allen and Elena who should be looking at the sky point at the ground this time.

“...Eh?”

When I look where they point, a seven colored flowers——“Rainbow flower”were blooming in the ground.

Rainbow flower is a flower that blooms after the rain. It blooms and withers with the rainbow. Moreover, the place to bloom is random. It’s a flower whose blooming place can’t be predicted.

Because of its difficult discovery conditions, it’s naturally a rare material.

“This is a Rainbow flower. A medicinal plant”

The sunlight reaches them, and the petals start glittering.

Being able to see this should be an outrageous luck.

“ “Medicinal!!” “

“Allen, will pluck~”

“Ellena will pluck too~”

“Eh?”

Hearing the word “medicinal,” Allen and Elena started plucking the Rainbow flowers. It’s a precious medicinal plant, so it’s better to pick them, but we have come to play today...

Well, the two look to be having fun picking herbs, so if the two are okay with it... right? Un, let’s make it right.

Well then, I will get some too.

“ “Are~?” “

After picking sufficient amount of Rainbow flowers, the rest of the Rainflowers withered the moment the rainbow disappeared, and the meadow returned to normal.

“ “Disappeared~” “

“There is really nothing left, huh...”

The plucked flowers remain as they were, but the rest withered.

If I had not plucked any flowers, it would feel like an illusion.

“Mysterious, isn’t it~?”

“ “Isn’t it~?” “

“Did you have fun today?”

“ “Fun~” “

It turned into a material collection in the end, but Allen and Elena apparently had plenty of fun.

“Then, shall we return?”

“ “Un” “



“Kyaa——!!”

I thought it would be wasteful to leave the valuable Rainbow flowers in the [Infinite Storage], so I brought some to the guild.

There, when I took the Rainbow flowers out, Luna-san let out a shout.

Moreover, she shouted so much she”Cough, cough”choked.

“Isn’t this Rainbow flower!? Moreover, this many! Sugoi, sugoi!!”

“Ah~... can I ask you to sell this for me?”

“Gladly~!!”

I thought she might be glad, but she’s delighted more than I expected.

Allen and Elena were startled by Luna-san’s strong reaction and stuck to my legs somewhat frightened...

CHAPTER 60

CHECK AND REPORT

“Yeah. Gilliam-dono, I’m sorry to have kept you waiting”

“No. I didn’t know that Count-sama and Takumi-san were acquaintances”

“It’s our first time meeting, but Takumi-san is an important guest of our family. Ah, which reminds me, it appears there was some kind of a problem yesterday at the guild, wasn’t there? Is the reason that the guild master didn’t come today because he was busy dealing with that?”

“ “ ” “
...”

The sub master’s—Gilliam-san’s complexion instantly turned pale.

Nevertheless, Cedric-san. Why do you know about that matter? It happened just yesterday, you know?

I thought I was being tailed for a moment there. But, if that were the case, both the children and I would notice.

That means, his intelligence gathering is awfully excellent.

“I won’t say anything because Takumi-san compromised, but I hope that such thing won’t happen in the future”

“Y, yes. Of course! Severely, I will hold it in my heart!”

“If you, the sub master says so, I feel relieved”

Cedric-san, thank you very much.

It appears he gave the guild warning for our sake.

At any rate... Cedric is talking with the usual smile, but it brought up the fire from the atmosphere.

Hence Gilliam-san nodded with a great vigor.

“ “Ah” “

“Allen, Elena. Pointing fingers at people is rude”

“ “Ye~s” “

At that time, Allen and Elena who were quiet all the time suddenly let out voices and pointed at Cedric-san. I stopped their gesture in a hurry.

“So, what happened?”

“ “Alike~” “

N? Alike?

“Said it’s alright~ to kick”

“Knight Onii~chan”

“ “” ” “”
...

Ah~ that time... In the Gaya Forest with the Knights Order, Isaac-san said to Allen and Elena that it’s alright to kick Wald-sama...

I also find the smile of Isaac-san at that time exactly the same as Cedric-san’s, but... however, do I hear a different meaning when the to say it...

“Umm... by alike you mean Isaac-san, right? Has my little brother grew to like being kicked around by children in the time I have not seen him, I wonder...”

“You are wrong, it’s different! The target on the receiving end of the kick was different!”

See~ Cedric-san had a weird misunderstanding~

I must resolve the misunderstanding to protect Isaac-san’s honor! Ah~ while that may be true, I can’t possibly say that the target of the kicking as Wald-sama...

It seems difficult to explain while not saying the concrete thing.

I somehow managed to solve the misunderstanding, and we talked about the “Ripples” dungeon.

The contents were about the details I found in the dungeon, and the investigation of the people Cedric-san and the guild dispatched.

“Haa~ To discover a dungeon in my fief~ I’m grateful to you, Takumi-san”

“That so, isn’t it? People are going to gather in our town from now on”

Speaking frankly, a dungeon is a vein of gold.

When the information of a new dungeon gets out, adventurers will start gathering around. Those adventurers will bring back the dropped items from the dungeon and sell them at the Adventurer’s Guild.

Merchants will gather for those dropped items and trade with the Adventurer’s Guild. When people gather, the inns and restaurants will flourish.

Since the economy moves in various places and taxes are paid, the financial affairs of the fief prosper as a result.

It was really a coincidence that I have caused a dungeon fuss in the Risner territory, but I think it would be good if it returned the favor that I owe to the Risner house at least a little.

Well, I think that problems will arise with the sudden increase of people, but I can only wish them to do their best.

Oh yeah, there is a total of four dungeons kept under control in Guardia. It appears that the “Ripples” we have discovered is going to be the fifth one.

Yesterday, before returning from the guild, I asked the receptionist about the locations of the dungeons. She then turned towards the adventurers and got me a list with a rough map.

The list had the dungeons written in order with information such as [Fourth Dungeon “Earth” /Low rank/Guardia, Shirin/To the east, half day by foot] .

According to this list, half of the dungeons appear to be undiscovered.

I get why the dungeon in the Gaya Forest or the dungeon in the deep sea are not discovered, but I was surprised that even dungeons near the towns are undiscovered.

Because of that~ I have to be more careful~ Is what I was thinking while storing the map into the [Infinite Storage], but then——

——*Piron*♪

At that time, I heard an electric sound in my head for some reason.

I thought what could it be, so I immediately opened the designating window.

Then, there was an indication “NEW” by the map tab.

The information written on the paper I stored in the [Infinite Storage] was now indicated on the map.

That’s right, the map has updated on its own. Seriously~ I was completely dumbfounded then~

“That reminds me, how far in the dungeon did you go?”

“We just looked a bit around the first floor. We did not have much time as I wouldn’t make it in time for today. We indeed had troubles right at the entrance, though”

As expected, reaching the entrance of the dungeon——it was not easy swimming for about 50 meters without breathing.

“Umm... I feel bad for asking, but there were no casualties, right?”

Because there is no way to get out of the waterway halfway, if you can’t hold your breath, the risk of drowning isn’t low.

I wouldn’t like to hear the talk of people drowning in the dungeon I have discovered.

“Everything’s all right. The investigator I chose had a large stamina and good swimming skills”

I feel relieved hearing Cedric-san’s words.

But, it’s obvious that when the dungeon is officially announced, reckless people will appear one after another. We have to take measures against that immediately...

“Well, I understand Takumi-san’s fears. I had the investigator hold onto a magic tool just in case, and right now, we are in a hurry to mass produce that very magic tool”

“You mean a magic tool that allows breathing underwater?”

“Yes. It’s not that highly effective, but it uses wind magic stone which creates a fixed amount of air in the magic tool, so I gave the orders to have that mass produced”

Creates air... hee~ so there was such magic tool~ if something like that exists, I can feel relieved?

“Also, regarding the reward. I’m sure you are aware, but the discoverer of a dungeon gets rewarded by the country”

Yeah, the matter of the reward still remains... I’ve heard from the guild that the discoverer would receive a reward, but don’t conceal the important thing!

“Is the name of the discoverer officially announced?”

“It’s reported to the country, but only limited information is revealed in the public announcement. It was done like that in the past. Takumi-san, you don’t like the official announcement? Discoverer of a new dungeon will receive high praises, you know?”

“I’d like to decline the praises”

“I understand. I will propose that to His Majesty”

“I will leave it to you”

Discovering a new dungeon looks too conspicuous, so I would like to avoid it. Fortunately, publishing my name seems to be avoidable.

In truth, I would like to avoid the reward as well, but... Cedric-san rejected with a wonderful smile.... Regrets.

Now then, is the talk done with this? It had become noon before I noticed.

The sub master who finished reporting quickly left the room.

“Cedric-sama, everyone is waiting in the dining room”

The butler of the Risner house who guided us to Cedric-san, Joshua-san just came to call for Cedric-san, so we will also take our leave——

“Then, we will... ——”

“Now then, Takumi-san. The lunch preparations are done, so let’s move to the dining room”

“Eh?”

Cedric-san smiled with a smile that I couldn’t go against.

Ku... this smile, it’s definitely a foul play!



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